



Minutes  
Redondo Beach City Council  
Tuesday, December 16, 2025  
Closed Session – Adjourned Regular Meeting 4:00 p.m.  
Open Session – Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**4:00 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 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Waller, Castle, Kaluderovic, Obagi, Mayor Light

Councilmembers Absent: Behrendt

Officials Present: Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Joy Ford, City Attorney  
Melissa Villa, Analyst/Liaison  
Emily Bodkin, Administrative Specialist

**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**

Administrative Specialist Bodkin reported no eComments and one Zoom attendee.

**F. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION – 4:02 P.M.**

**F.1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL AND LABOR NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Sec. 54957.6.**

**AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:**

**Mike Witzansky, City Manager**

**Diane Strickfaden, Director of Human Resources**

**EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Redondo Beach Police Officers' Association, Redondo Beach Police Management Unit and Management and Confidential Employees**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRICKFADEN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**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:**

**230 Portofino Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

**(a portion of APN: 7503-029-903)**

**NEGOTIATING PARTIES:**

**John Warner, Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, a non-profit corporation**

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:**

**Terms**

**F.3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.**

**AGENCY NEGOTIATORS:**

**Mike Witzansky, City Manager**

**Greg Kapovich, Waterfront & Economic Development Director**

**PROPERTY:**

**239 & 245 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

**(portions of APN: 7503-029-903)**

**NEGOTIATING PARTIES:**

**Allen Sanford, CA Surf Club**

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:**

**Lease Status, Price, and Terms**

**F.4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTER/EVALUATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54957(b).**

**Title: City Manager**

Administrative Specialist Bodkin read titles to be discussed at Closed Session.

City Manager Witzansky announced the following would be participating in Closed

Session: City Manager Mike Witzansky, City Attorney Joy Ford, Assistant City Attorney Cheryl Park, Human Resources Director Diane Strickfaden, Assistant to the City Manager Jane Chung, and W.E.D. Director Greg Kapovich.

Administrative Specialist Bodkin reported no eComments and no Zoom attendees.

Motion by Councilmember Waller, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to recess to Closed Session at 4:02 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0-1 by voice vote. Councilmember Behrendt was absent.

Mayor Light announced they would be having the menorah lighting in front of City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

#### **G. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Light reconvened to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

#### **H. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Waller, Castle, Kaluderovic, Obagi, Behrendt, Mayor Light

Councilmembers Absent: None

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk  
Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Joy Ford, City Attorney  
Laura Diaz, Records Mgmt. Supervisor

#### **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS**

City Manager Witzansky stated there was nothing to report.

#### **J. ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Councilmember Castle, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to adjourn to the Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

### **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 6:05 p.m.

by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Waller, Castle, Kaluderovic, Obagi, Behrendt, Mayor Light

Councilmembers Absent: None

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk  
Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Joy Ford, City Attorney  
Laura Diaz, Records Mgmt. Supervisor

**C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Light invited veterans and active-duty military to stand and be recognized for their service.

Otis, 4<sup>th</sup> grader from Jefferson Elementary School, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Light asked all to remain standing for a moment of silent invocation.

**D. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/AB 1234 TRAVEL**

**D.1. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION OF THE KEY TO THE CITY TO PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR JERRY GALBEZ FOR HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY**

Mayor Light called up Jerry Galbez, Public Works Director Winje, and Mike Klein; provided some background on Mr. Galbez's employment with the City, reported his public service started in 1989 and over the last 36.5 years he has helped build, maintain, and protect the infrastructure of the City; reported that Mr. Galbez has been an active teamster for 34 years, served as a steward and chief steward for 24 of those years, and served on the Teamster 911 Executive Board for four years; noted that Mr. Galbez has worked in almost every role in the Public Works operations; stated that Mr. Galbez's leadership style truly set him apart; spoke of his dedication and reputation as a colleague and as a family man; presented Mr. Galbez with a key to the City to recognize him for his extraordinary service and impact on behalf of the City Council, the City of Redondo Beach, and the residents.

Public Works Director Winje spoke of Mr. Galbez being a devoted Dodger fan, noted his impressive bobblehead collection, and noted that he is loved and respected by all who have worked with him.

Mike Klein spoke of meeting Jerry Galbez 20 years ago; stated Mr. Galbez, in regard to teamsters, always looked at both sides of the story and treated everyone fairly and asked for fairness with the City; provided many positive words that described Mr. Galbez as provided by others he worked with; presented Mr. Galbez with his last work assignment which was to enjoy his family and friends and the life he has earned; thanked him for being a team leader.

Jerry Galbez spoke of his enjoyment in working in Redondo Beach and stated it is a great team.

Mayor Light reported having a second presentation; asked Public Works Director Winje to accept it on behalf of the Public Works team; stated the South Bay Council of Governments and the Southern California Regional Energy Network presented the City with the bronze level achievement for energy and climate recognition, noted that the Public Works Department is at the forefront of it so presented the award to Director Winje to accept for the City.

Mayor Light moved to Announcements and AB 1234 Travel Expense Reports.

Mayor Light reported attending the Holiday Boat Parade which integrated both the land side and the water side and thanked the Harbor Association, Councilmember Castle, King Harbor Yacht Club, and his wife for running the event; reported spending time with Assemblymember Muratsuchi and Senator Allen to push some legislation through to help protect the City for the housing element and some state mandates on housing; stated he sat with a professional organization called Goals that want to turn the water polo tournament they had into a two and a half month event in the Harbor for next summer.

Councilmember Kaluderovic reported being downtown with County and other elected officials to discuss Measure A and their upcoming spending plan and the most impactful use of those tax dollars; stated she was advocating for the data needed to quantify how those dollars are currently working and where more money should be spent for the best outcomes; reported attending the round table lunch at the King Harbor Yacht Club.

Councilmember Castle reported attending the round table luncheon; noted that the King Harbor Holiday Boat Parade is the only official parade in Redondo Beach and spoke of the success of the event; stated that they included other organizations around the Harbor and thanked King Harbor Yacht Club, the Pier Association, the high school marching band, and the King Harbor Association.

Councilmember Waller reported attending the round table luncheon and stated they were entertained by students from Beryl Elementary; thanked the volunteers from Police and Fire for arranging for him to be Santa on Thursday and Friday to ride the sleigh; attended the car show, visited with vendors at the craft market, watched the ugly sweater paddle boards, saw the Redondo Union band led by drum major Pro Tem Chadwick Castle, and saw the menorah lighting that evening.

Councilmember Obagi commended Councilmember Castle on the Waterfront events that occurred over the weekend and spoke about the success of the events; thanked Mayor Light for hosting dinner for Council and City staff the week prior; reported attending the round table luncheon at the King Harbor Yacht Club and the Southern California Environmental Services Center awards; thanked Rabbi Yossi and the Yossi family for the Hanukkah event that evening.

**E. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to approve the order of agenda as is.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

**F. AGENCY RECESS – None**

**G. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS**

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

City Clerk Manzano reported five Blue Folder items: H.13, H.5, J.1, P.1, and Council Subcommittee Report employee agreement with City Manager first, second, and third amendment.

Motion by Councilmember Waller, seconded by Councilmember Castle, to receive and file the Blue Folder items.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

**H. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**H.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AND REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 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:  
A. DECEMBER 2, 2025 ADJOURNED AND REGULAR MEETING**

**CONTACT:** ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

**H.4. PAYROLL DEMANDS**

CHECKS 30474-30487 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,884.35, PD. 12/5/25  
DIRECT DEPOSIT 304232-304851 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,382,700.34, PD.  
12/5/25  
EFT/ACH \$9,987.19, PD. 11/21/25 (PP2524)  
EFT/ACH \$473,228.96, PD. 12/1/25 (PP2523)

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEMANDS**

CHECKS 122695-122924 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,414,952.31  
REPLACEMENT DEMANDS 122693-122694

**CONTACT: STEPHANIE MEYER, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

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

1. APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 9 TO FUNDING AGREEMENT #MOU.MR312.06 WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) FOR THE PCH ARTERIAL IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN ANITA ST AND PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD PROJECT, JOB NO. 40800, TO MODIFY THE PROJECT SCOPE AND EXTEND THE LAPSING DATE OF MEASURE R FUNDS TO JUNE 30, 2027

**CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

2. APPROVE A NO-COST FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK FOR THE USE OF FOUR (4) 24-HOUR UNMANNED VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT DROP BOXES AT THE RIVIERA VILLAGE TRIANGLE PARKING LOT, REDONDO BEACH MAIN LIBRARY, REDONDO BEACH NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY AND DOMINGUEZ PARK FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS FOR THE TERM DECEMBER 16, 2025 TO DECEMBER 15, 2030

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

**H.6. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO CC-2512-100, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE WAIVER OF PARKING METER FEES WITHIN THE RIVIERA VILLAGE AREA FROM DECEMBER 17, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**CONTACT: JOE HOFFMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE**

**H.7. APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTION OF TRUSTEE AND FULL RECONVEYANCE OF THE REHABILITATION LOAN LIEN PLACED ON THE PROPERTY AT 728 NORTH JUANITA AVENUE, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277**

**CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**H.8. APPROVE THE BUSINESS LICENSE TAX WAIVER APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY COME TOGETHER REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUSINESS LICENSE TAX RATES ESTABLISHED IN REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 6-1.22, AS PER SECTION 6-1.08 OF THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE, FOR ITS COMMUNITY ARTISAN EVENT SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 13, 2025 AT 179 N HARBOR DRIVE**

**CONTACT:** ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR  
STEPHANIE MEYER, FINANCE DIRECTOR

**H.9. APPROVE AN HISTORIC PROPERTY PRESERVATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 519 SOUTH CATALINA FOR A TEN-YEAR TERM WITH AUTOMATIC ONE-YEAR RENEWALS**

**CONTACT:** MARC WIENER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**H.10. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. 3309-25 AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 10-5.402(a) OF THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO THE DEFINITION OF "P" (PERMITTED BY RIGHT) IN THE CITY'S VARIOUS SPECIFIED ZONES AND PROCEDURES AND DETERMINING SUCH AMENDMENT AS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT. FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION**

**CONTACT:** MARC WIENER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**H.11. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2512-102, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND PAY PLAN FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

**CONTACT:** DIANE STRICKFADEN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**H.12. RECEIVE AND FILE THE FINAL ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**CONTACT:** STEPHANIE MEYER, FINANCE DIRECTOR

**H.13. APPROVE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH HEALTH NET FOR USE OF FUNDS FOR THE PALLET SHELTER EXPANSION AND ALTERNATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM TO EXTEND THE TERM TO DECEMBER 31, 2026**

**CONTACT:** JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

**H.14. APPROVE A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL J. ARNOLD AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$47,000 FOR THE INITIAL TERM JANUARY 1, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026 PLUS AUTOMATIC RENEWALS FOR UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS APPROVE A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DAVID TURCH AND ASSOCIATES FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 FOR THE INITIAL TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026 PLUS AUTOMATIC RENEWALS FOR UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS**

**CONTACT: LUKE SMUDE, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

**H.15. APPROVE AN UPDATED PAY AND BENEFITS PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE GROUP ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2512-103, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, UPDATING THE PAY AND BENEFITS PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES**

**CONTACT: MIKE WITZANSKY, CITY MANAGER**

**H.16. RECEIVE AND FILE THE MONTHLY UPDATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JUNE 10, 2025**

**CONTACT: LUKE SMUDE, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

Motion by Councilmember Castle, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to approve the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Wayne Craig, District 1, stated last week he asked Council for free parking in Riviera Village, and they granted free parking for one week and hoped the City Council would support it next year.

Ron Maroko, District 3, stated he is there to speak about item H.9; noted he came before the Council on November 4<sup>th</sup> about the Mills Act contract and had asked the Council to add language to the contract that gives express consent for the property to be considered a historic district; stated they have another contract before them tonight and decided to come down and remind them of the importance of it; stated the City Attorney said it is a policy matter and looked forward to the Council bringing up the issue next year; spoke of H.16 being on the calendar regarding certain portions of the strategic plan dealing with historical preservation and stated on January 6<sup>th</sup> Council is going to talk about the ordinance but noted the Mills Act is nowhere in the ordinance; hoped to add the provision into the contract; spoke about the property that is before them tonight being surrounded

by three different historical landmarks; reported the Public Amenities Commission asked the homeowner during the meeting if she would be interested in participating as a historic district and she said she would consider it; stated the property has been landmarked since 1994 and has been without a contract and this is the opportunity to do it; hoped that Council will add the language he proposed on November 4<sup>th</sup> and if not tonight, would discuss it at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Light asked Mr. Maroko to provide a copy of the clause he wrote; City Clerk Manzano stated if he could give it to her, she could distribute it to the Council; Mr. Maroko stated he would give it to the City Clerk before he left.

Jim Mueller, District 5, spoke about item H.14; stated they are two professional services contracts that contain automatic multi-year renewals and wanted the Council to question whether they have the opportunity, in the budget process, to either cancel or alter the amounts.

City Clerk Manzano reported no one on Zoom and no eComments.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

City Clerk read titles to H.6 adopt by title only Resolution No. CC-2512-100, H.10 adopt by title only Ordinance No. 3309-25, H.11 adopt by title only Resolution No. CC-2512-102, and H.15 adopt by title only Resolution No. CC-2512-103.

**I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None**

**J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**J.1. For eComments and Emails Received from the Public**

Andrew Beggs stated he is representing the King Harbor Yacht Club and the King Harbor Youth Foundation, which are two not-for-profit organizations that live in District 2 on Mole A; thanked the City Council, staff, and the Mayor for the Holiday Boat Parade and spoke highly of the event; highlighted Councilmember Castle, Pat Light, and Jeff Jones for all the work they did to make the event great; stated he was confident that if they continue to work together they can improve upon the event every year.

Wayne Craig spoke about the compensation of RBPD being ranked as the last among ten comparable cities; stated it deserves immediate attention and an honest conversation needs to happen on what's driving it; spoke of the push for the stand alone gun range and asked if the officers asked for the expensive project or if it is being imposed by the City Council; stated the \$19 million gun range was sold to the public as being funded by a federal grant and co-opted by the Air Force base but that claim is unraveling and went into more detail on fund allocation; spoke of the funds allocated towards the gun range could have gone to the officers and each could have had \$13,000 more per officer; stated that another \$5.5 million would still be needed even if the City does with the grant lottery

and another \$700,000 to run the range; said if wages are truly a priority they can prove it tonight by having Council reallocate the remaining \$1.1 million away from the stand alone gun range to give roughly \$11,000 a year raise per office without raising taxes, cutting services, or asking voters for another bond; agreed that the City needs a new gun range but opined it should be incorporated into an already approved new Police HQ under Measure FP.

Jim Mueller stated the December meeting of the Budget & Finance Commission was very good and they dug into a lot of issues; reported that the Commission addressed two topics: procurement of professional services and change orders on Public Works contracts; stated the Commission had legitimate questions regarding the practices of those two topics; noted the municipal code has "no compete" contracts for procurement of professional services and went over his concerns for that type of practice; reported that the sole source services contracts are approved in the Consent Calendar and not as an Agenda Item which short circuits the annual budget process and pose dangers regarding public trust; recommended the City consider reviewing its procurement practices, especially amending the City code regarding the sole sourcing of professional services.

Ron Maroko, District 3, spoke about the tremendous job Jack Meyer has done with the historical museum and encouraged everyone to go and see what has been done.

John Perchulyn (via Zoom), District 1, provided an audio of a tractor trailer near his home at 5:39 a.m. that woke him up that morning; stated he went to the last cruising at the beach show that weekend and commented that it was a great event but was disappointed that the City did not recognize Darryl Boyd for holding the event which had the US Marines and a Toys-for-Tots collection.

Darryl Boyd (via Zoom), District 3, stated on the Saturdays of November 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> the community of car lovers got together for an event that provided a free car show, donations for the Salvation Army of Redondo Beach Food Bank and a toy donations for the USMC Toys-for-Tots event; stated that their Cruise at the Beach Christmas Car Show event was purposely skipped and ignored by the Mayor and City Council so he wanted to recognize the crowd and the community that attended and supported the event; spoke of the conflict he has had with the Mayor regarding his classic car and reported the Cruise at the Beach was started 26 years ago by the Boyd family.

City Clerk Manzano reported no eComments and no one else on Zoom.

**K. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**L. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**M. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None**

**N. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

**N.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH VOLKAN ALKANOGLU DESIGN LLC TO COMMISSION AND INSTALL THE ARTWORK “GATE WAVE” AT GATEWAY PARKETTE FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$275,000**

**CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Community Services Director Hause stated she and Jack Meyer would present the artist contract for Gate Wave, which is a project that has been in the works for about 15 years; handed the floor over to Jack Meyer to present the item.

Jack Meyer provided a slide with a timeline and some background regarding the artwork; noted the artist is Volkan Alkanoglu, the project started in 2011 with the Transit Center design, and gave details on the process that led to Gate Wave; noted that the budget started at \$75,000, which was to be from Prop C, but the construction did not start until 2017 and by then the new quote came in at \$275,000; stated that the John Parsons Public Art Fund was created and received enough deposits to move the project forward; reported in 2021 as the project neared completion, it was brought back to Council for approval and at that point the Council did allocate the additional \$200,000 but did not like the chosen location for the artwork at the Transit Center and directed staff to look for a new location; direction was given to the Commission to look for a new location, the Commission identified Gateway Parkette as their recommendation, and after Council reviewed it they accepted the design in January 2024; stated that due to the change in location the City lost the Prop C money so the remaining funds came from the John Parsons Art Fund; stated the item is being brought back to Council since it has been determined that the location is feasible for the artwork; provided a slide with the breakdown of the costs for the \$275,000 budget and the timeline for the project, which has a tentative completion date of June 2026; showed some pictures of the design and artwork; recommendation by staff to the Council is to approve the agreement with Volkan Alkanoglu, LLC to commission and install the artwork “Gate Wave” at Gateway Parkette for a total cost not to exceed \$275,000.

Discussion followed regarding the start date of the project and the tentative completion and ribbon cutting date to be in June.

Mayor Light reported that aluminum combined with stainless steel in a salt environment leads to galvanic corrosion and asked if there are assurances that there will be isolation of the two dissimilar metals.

Jack Meyer explained that the stainless steel would be used to anchor the artwork, but the aluminum will be used to connect pieces with similar metals.

Councilmember Obagi stated he has had a request for benches to be placed in more scenic locations around the Gateway Parkette and noted the current bench faces the parking lot.

City Manager Witzansky stated they can investigate those options and if needed can bring it back as a budget consideration.

More discussion followed.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Castle, to approve the agreement.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Gil Contreras (via Zoom) stated he is concerned where the money is coming from when there was a discussion earlier about the Police Officers not being compensated fairly; opined that the City needs to reassess where they are spending their money, need to be more fiscally responsible since they are representing residents, and should get more input from the community.

Mayor Light stated that not all funding can be moved to all places; asked City Manager Witzansky if they can reallocate John Parsons funds to do infrastructure or to pay the police.

City Manager Witzansky responded no, one-time funds cannot be used for ongoing salary commitments; explained uses for one-time funds and for recurring expenditures and further added that John Parsons has its own restrictions for use, which is for only public art.

More discussion followed regarding the specific uses of funds allocated by the City and clarification to the audience that the Council is not at leisure to take money from one fund and move them to the General Fund.

Marcie Guillermo (via Zoom) commented that the sculpture looks too big for the location chosen and asked if it could be reduced; voiced concern over maintenance costs and the possibility of the sculpture rusting and felt the artwork is too expensive for the area it is being placed; suggested to use the funding to do 3D work roles.

City Clerk Manzano reported one eComment opposed.

Georgette Gantner, District 2, wanted to address the caller and clarified that the Public Art Fund was established in 2009 and that 1% of developer fees are being set aside to establish the budget for the fund; spoke in support of the project.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

## **N.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ARTESIA BLVD STRATEGIC ART PLAN AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

## **CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Community Services Director Hause introduced Beau Basse, Creative Director of LeBasse Projects; noted that they are the selected consultant for the ARTesia project; stated he has collected a lot of community feedback through surveys, community meetings, and conversations with the PAC; reported he has put together a draft of the public art plan/strategic plan for Artesia.

Beau Basse stated he would go over bullet points in his presentation; noted that the strategic plan is 60 pages and outlines everything from their methodology to their community engagement plan, to the goals, art locations, and typologies of artwork materials; explained that their process began with connecting with the community, their goal is to utilize the public art along Artesia to enhance the City, enhance the Artesia corridor, and tie it in with future development; spoke about using artwork to innovate and inspire the community and celebrate the identity and culture of the City; reported LeBasse spoke with each member of the Cultural Arts Commission, several community members, local businesses, and had several meetings with the NRBBA; stated they spent lots of time with City staff and on their learning Artesia and the corridor; spoke about their community outreach which involved an online survey, a community meeting, and more meetings with the CAC and stated that is how they developed the strategic plan; noted they heard a lot from the community about traffic and the speed of traffic and although they cannot solve that they want to be strategic on how they can use art to mitigate those issues; stated others want landmark art, other want functional elements and interactive art; stated people asked about murals but they had to remind everyone that whatever they do must be on publicly owned land and they can't spend civic dollars on buildings that may be painted over if the building is sold or the owners change their minds; stated they wanted to emphasize the City gateways and expanded on their thoughts for certain areas around the City; reported that the City has allocated \$450,000 for phase one and has a plan for phase two; stated in phase one they are looking at recreating the landmark welcome sign, two median installations, several concrete benches, enhance existing infrastructure, and use crosswalks to create visuals that would potentially slow traffic down.

Mayor Light asked about gateway signs having the new City logo or if they were part of the art project; noted they are going through a branding process as well.

City Manager Witzansky stated they would eventually need to cycle through all of the City's entry signs and monument signs with the newly updated logo; noted that it will be an expense that they will have to do over time.

Mayor Light stated it is for the Council to debate whether they are branding the signs or doing a one-off.

Beau Basse broke down the phase one allocations: \$100,000 for each median installation, \$40,000 for a welcome sign, \$40,000 to redesign and decorate benches, \$80,000 for two major crosswalk installations, \$45,000 in contingency in case any of the

budgets are overrun, and the balance is LeBasse's consulting fee; provided visual examples of crosswalk installations, viewfinders, light posts, benches, and other potential art installations; stated the next step for LeBasse, assuming the strategic plan is approved, would be to put out and build an artist pool; noted they do not represent any artists and their goal is to reach out and build a large pool for the CAC and Council to approve; explained how they build the pool of artists; stated the recommended selection panel would be comprised of two Cultural Arts Commission members, two community members, and one City representative and LeBasse would not be on the selection panel but there to support and advise as needed.

Deputy Community Services Director Kelly Orta presented the recommendation given by the Cultural Arts Commission to the City Council; reported that the Commission was overall in support of the plan but wanted to add two additional ideas: 1) to consider more interactive pieces throughout phase one, and 2) to add an additional allocation of \$32,500 to phase one for a proposed LGBTQ sculpture at the North Branch Library; explained that \$25,000 would go towards the artwork and \$7,500 would be for LBP to assist in the consulting services for the procurement and installation of the piece.

Mayor Light asked if the benches were not considered interactive pieces.

Beau Basse stated the Commission wanted the benches but also wanted more interactivity so their recommendation would be to remove one of the median sculptures or the welcome sculpture and reallocate that towards more interactive pieces.

Discussion followed regarding phase two having more types of locations for the interactive pieces and potential to reposition those into phase one.

Mayor Light asked if the CAC wants both an LGBTQ sculpture and a crosswalk.

Community Services Director Hause stated the CAC has moved away from the crosswalk LGBTQ project and prefer an LGBTQ sculpture instead.

Councilmember Behrendt asked, with respect to the LGBTQ North Branch Library installation, was that part of the community outreach and polling.

Beau Basse stated that, because the topic kept coming up at meetings, they were getting feedback for the installation and his team discussed it and thought they could create both a time and cost savings for the City by rolling it into the overall plan; noted they are already building the artist pool.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if the outreach and interaction with residents included the potential art installation at the North Branch Library.

Beau Basse stated the outreach did not specifically ask about it, but the opportunity kept coming up as a question in multiple meetings.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if more outreach could be done specifically for the installation at the North Branch Library.

Beau Basse stated it would need to be added to the budget to do additional community outreach; noted it would be important to get feedback from the community but it was not part of the initial request; stated that the Cultural Arts Commission recommended that City Council provide any additional direction but approve the strategic plan with some modifications including more interactive artwork replacing potentially one of the larger sculptures.

Commissioner Castle asked if the LGBTQ sculpture project is in addition to the \$450,000 budget.

Beau Basse clarified that the LGBTQ sculpture project has funds that the CAC already has and are now recommending that LeBasse manage that process for them.

City Manager Witzansky said Council should think about it as they have appropriated \$450,000 for the effort, \$45,000 for the initial strategic planning effort and roughly \$400,000 for phase one future public art projects; stated Council has three choices as it pertains to the CAC recommendation: 1) direct that that specific project effort be part of phase one and charged against the original \$450,000, 2) direct staff to come back with a 4/5s budget modification, a supplemental resolution, that would add an additional \$32,000 or more to the CIP project to expand the scope of work associated with phase one, or 3) table the item to phase two.

More discussion followed.

Beau Basse stated that the initial task was to create a plan for the \$450,000 and through the process of community engagement the additional piece was added as a potential supplement; stated their goal is to also get an understanding of how phase one would affect phase two.

Councilmember Castle mentioned one of the phase one projects could potentially slide into phase two if the LGBTQ project were to be done in phase one.

Councilmember Obagi pointed out that the North Redondo Beach community is thirsty to have a vitalized Artesia Blvd with art and new businesses; voiced his concern over crosswalk art fading in a few years and the maintenance needed to rehab the art.

Beau Basse stated that Councilmember Obagi brought up a good point; noted that the maintenance and longevity of the murals need to be considered; said they will bring in a third-party conservator to give a maintenance and conservation report and guessed the crosswalk mural would last about 3 to 5 years.

More discussion followed regarding current crosswalk designs throughout the City.

Councilmember Obagi stated he is not a fan of the crosswalk art due to its limited life and felt like a permanent installation would be better; asked Beau Basse why they chose the west side of Artesia for the welcome sign.

Beau Basse stated because there is a welcome sign currently there and their thought was to replace that welcome sign with a sculptural installation to replace that marker and then they would place an accompanying median sculpture on the east end of Artesia.

Councilmember Obagi pulled up a picture of the monument sign at Artesia and Hawthorne; brought up a picture of the location just west of Inglewood where Artesia first starts and felt that would be a perfect spot for an entry piece; wondered with the existing monument signs, if they can't redo them with the current logo and add art to the existing piece.

Beau Basse stated they are open to the feedback; felt the west gateway and east gateway entering as landmarks was the thought; opined it would not make sense to spend money to decorate an existing monument versus replacing it and stated a taller more colorful piece would stand out more for that location; stated they are open to locations for the gateways.

Councilmember Obagi asked as LeBasse goes forward to continue to engage the community and if they have ideas he would like to see another poll go out to the community to gather feedback; noted that Council has the feedback from the Cultural Arts Commission and felt the community would appreciate being heard and having the chance to provide input.

Beau Basse agreed and pointed out that the selection panel includes two community members, two CAC members, and City staff; spoke of the NRBBA and other groups being involved and engaged throughout the process.

Councilmember Obagi noted each Councilmember can send survey links out if LeBasse sends them a link via email; voiced his support for the \$32,500 appropriation for the North Branch Library installation for an inclusive LGBTQ art piece; asked about epoxy art and if it is something that can be incorporated into the project.

Beau Basse spoke about other materials that could be used in the crosswalks including epoxy and their goal is to build the artist pool where they have artists that present those types of concepts.

Councilmember Waller referenced the monument signs and asked if they have to say Redondo Beach or if just artwork could be placed at the gateways.

Beau Basse stated his thoughts were just to place artwork at the gateways.

Mayor Light stated he received a comment that median signs protect but could potentially distract drivers and asked Beau Basse what his thoughts were.

Beau Basse responded that it comes down to the selection panel and the artists' concepts; reminded everyone that the artists will not have the ability to do whatever they want and that the selection panel and LeBasse will have the ability to make sure they select the right art that fits the area and won't create distractions.

Councilmember Behrendt referenced the locations LeBasse really liked but had to walk away from because they were not City-owned properties; asked Beau Basse and the City Manager if it was feasible to get an agreement with a non-City owned property owner to host artwork for a defined limited period of time and if so, what they recommend it.

City Manager Witzansky responded that he would be open to it.

Beau Basse spoke about an experience he had with a Caltrans owned property and that after a year of trying to make the project work they pulled the plug; stated it is better to focus their efforts on spaces they have available to them.

City Manager Witzansky added with new developments and through the design process the City encourages installations and they have had success with those situations, but the loaner program can be problematic.

Mayor Light pointed out their experience with the SCE on Herondo Park demonstrates how years can be added to a project; asked the slide with the street view map be brought on the screen; asked the Council their consensus on mixing the gateway sign for branding the City with artwork and whether they felt that was a good idea or not.

Councilmember Obagi stated the old monument signs could not be left in their current condition when they are beautifying the rest of Artesia Blvd.

Mayor Light asked if he wanted to spend art money on replacing the welcome to Redondo sign.

City Manager Witzansky spoke of the project including a commissioned piece that would incorporate elements of a monument branding for the City but also be an artistic piece.

More discussion followed.

Beau Basse stated their thought in the strategic plan was for one welcome sign on the west side of the street, and the idea was to replace the monument sign and instead of having logo and branding, have a visual marker that really subtly marks the entrance to Artesia and to North Redondo for the community; stated they don't recommend logo or branding because the City may choose to rebrand in 10 years and the idea is more of a gateway versus a literal branding.

More discussion followed regarding the art being the branding and the need for a welcome to Redondo Beach sign, where the welcome sign should be located and which is the most common entrance to Redondo Beach.

Beau Basse pointed out that the strategic art plan is part of the AACAP and that LeBasse's focus is on Artesia.

Councilmember Obagi mentioned that \$40,000 is allocated to the welcome sign and that the crosswalks are \$40,000 each; asked, if a more permanent solution for crosswalks were not feasible, could they move that money into more welcome signs or welcome art; noted they just went through the branding exercise and have a new logo and felt the logo should be incorporated into the monument sign at the entrance to the City.

Mayor Light asked for clarification on where he wanted the sign with the logo.

Councilmember Obagi stated at Hawthorne Blvd and Aviation there are signs with branding, at Inglewood there is no branding and stated he is in support of whatever the pros want to place there.

More discussion followed.

City Manager Witzansky stated what he is hearing from Councilmember Obagi is to retitle the welcome sign west and call it welcome art, which is at the installation in the median just west of Inglewood and has \$40,000 allocated and no limitations on that location; spoke of Councilmember Obagi's other request to repurpose the crosswalk allocation to update the City's east and west monument markers with a more artistic style that may or may not incorporate the City's branding but most likely will incorporate branding.

Councilmember Obagi agreed with City Manager's assessment and asked to hear from the public and other Councilmembers.

Mayor Light disagreed with the east side having no branding after the City just redid the King Harbor Gateway sign and mandated the logo be used; wondered why they would not use the logo on the 91-freeway coming into Redondo.

Councilmember Obagi stated the logo is on both Artesia and Hawthorne Blvd.

Councilmember Behrendt stated his understanding is that the gateway entrances on each side of Artesia Blvd east and west Hawthorne will maintain branding.

City Manager Witzansky stated the branding would continue on the monuments, but the monuments will be updated to be more artistic in nature.

Councilmember Waller suggested that a monument sign with the City's logo and brand should be placed at the entrance to the City and mentioned the signs they are discussing are a quarter mile into the City, and that no signs they are doing in Artesia should have logos, it should just be art.

City Manager Witzansky stated that the challenge is having median control and that the location chosen is the first location that is under the City's exclusive control.

More discussion ensued.

Mayor Light opined that the City should not be spending art money on a monument and that requiring branding is too restrictive.

Councilmember Waller agreed with Mayor Light.

Councilmember Obagi asked the City Manager for an approximate cost on updating the branding on the two monument signs.

City Manager Witzansky stated there are two scenarios: 1) rebuild the monument with new lettering and new branding which would be tens of thousands of dollars, or 2) repaint the existing and find a way to affix a new branding on top which would be in the lower tens of thousands of dollars.

Councilmember Obagi spoke about pairing the art monies with \$10,000 for the repaint of the existing sign.

City Manager Witzansky stated if they want the monument to be ministerial then they can look at solutions that do not require the art community but if they want something more exciting for Artesia then it would be reasonable to co-mingle the funds.

Councilmember Obagi asked Beau Basse if he would be able to get two different designs from artists, one that has the logo and one that is just monument art.

Beau Basse stated they will have a very detailed RFP for each of the locations.

Councilmember Obagi spoke of the selection panel having the opportunity to review the top choices and decide whether they want the logo on signs or not.

Beau Basse explained that the selection panel will be able to see the initial list of recommended artists, narrow down the finalists, and then be able to choose 2 or 3 artists to create specific concepts for each location and the selection panel will select from the designs, and then it will come back to Council.

City Manager Witzansky informed the Council that they will need to decide which installations will be prioritized moving forward and how they will allocate the crosswalk money (will it be for two additional sculptures, monument signs, or something else).

Beau Basse reminded the Council that they received a lot of feedback for landmarks and for things that would slow the traffic down such as the crosswalk art.

Councilmember Obagi asked if things could be affixed to the traffic lights.

Beau Basse said that is one of the things the CAC asked to have more of, the hidden

elements on the poles; noted that the CAC asked to reallocate some of the dollars to more of the interactive installations, but no changes have been made yet.

Councilmember Waller advocated for median artwork at each end but monument signs as a separate City item; suggested they ask City Traffic Engineer Liu what things he thinks will help slow down traffic or could be distracting; stressed that slowing down traffic on that street is very important; recommended the crosswalk at the greenway crossing would be a perfect location for a crosswalk installation if they can find the right material to use and stated the other crosswalk money could go towards the monuments, and supported the LGBTQ addition to the project.

More discussion followed regarding the cost of the crosswalks.

Councilmember Behrendt noted he had three items to discuss: the benches, the crosswalk, and the potential art installation at the North Branch Library; asked the City Manager if he had any concerns with the benches.

City Manager Witzansky opined that the benches could use a repurposing, they are underutilized and not attractive; stated they are a good canvas potentially for functional re-use.

More discussion followed regarding the options to repurpose the benches and the materials that can be used; discussed ideas to discourage sleep on the benches and that it will be included in the RFP. Beau Basse showed some samples of benches they have created for LA County.

Councilmember Behrendt spoke about the same concerns made by Councilmembers Obagi and Waller regarding the lifespan of crosswalk art and stated from a financial perspective they should stay away from crosswalk art; stated he would like to get more community feedback on the art installation and would not be ready to sign off on that item that evening; stated he may do his own community outreach to see what the community thinks.

Mayor Light voiced his concern over the crosswalk art not lasting, suggested that putting the artwork where the bulb outs are might work since cars are not driving there.

City Manager Witzansky noted that it is the turning that creates the problems so the bulb outs would not be ideal.

Mayor Light spoke of eliminating at least one crosswalk and allocate those funds to interactive art or the sculpture at the North Branch Library; stated he would prefer to keep any kind of gateway sign and brand them so they look similar; mentioned he would like to keep art as art and the gateway signs as a separate budget and project; agreed with Councilmember Behrendt about getting more feedback regarding the LGBTQ sculpture before the City fully commits to it.

Beau Basse suggested removing the crosswalks due to the concerns and move half of that money into what is currently listed as a welcome sign and leave the remaining \$40,000 into smaller sculptural and interactive works which were requested by the CAC. Discussion followed that they would then have three median art installations.

Councilmember Kaluderovic commented that the idea for all of this ARTesia is to brand that area, and that there is an initiative and a new logo already in place; stated she does not think they need to be mutually exclusive and that there is an opportunity to blend them; spoke about finding money to support both efforts for art and branding; voiced support for the crosswalk and understood the concern for longevity but mentioned employing a crossing guard there would cost more than the \$10,000 to maintain the crosswalk; felt that the North Redondo Beach bike path has been cited as a concern and if an installation slows traffic down it would help the City on two fronts.

Discussion followed in support of the crosswalk art installation at the intersection Councilmember Kaluderovic highlighted.

Councilmember Castle agreed with Councilmember Kaluderovic that that intersection would be more durable since it is straightforward with no turns plus it would help slow down traffic and if he had to pick one location it would be that one.

City Manager Witzansky stated, if Council directs the crosswalk installation, they need to be sensitive about the cohesion with bikes and the travel through that area so sealants and things like that don't cause people to slip; suggested that the art might be placed outside the crosswalk itself but on the boundaries of it.

More discussion followed regarding traffic safety issues if the art is placed on the bike path, noted they will need to discuss with City Traffic Engineer Liu about any concerns.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Teresa Mitchell thanked the Council and staff for all the attention Artesia Blvd is receiving; stated that the median art is not something that people can experience and engage with and over half the budget is going to monument signs and things on the median; opined that is not what keep people in the business district and make it interesting like the crosswalks, benches, bike racks, and the interactive art, which is less expensive; stated her preference is do all the crosswalks first and saw data that crosswalk art does draw people to walk over and view the art; spoke about materials that can be used with long life spans; noted it would be better to be cohesive so she would rather see the whole corridor with great benches or the whole corridor with crosswalk art than just a one-off statue; mentioned other areas that were missed that would have high traffic for people to walk through.

Desiree Galassi, District 4, echoed what Teresa Mitchell said about the crosswalks and medians; stated more people would appreciate the art they are walking by than the art on the medians; voiced her support for interactive installations; mentioned Solano Beach and

the glass mosaic they have embedded in the pathways and felt there is opportunity for the City to use different materials; spoke about the King Harbor Gateway sign and that the City missed the opportunity to make it historic; stated the monuments are perfect to include branding and supported using the logo on the monument signs.

Georgette Gantner disagreed and felt that different heights of art being presented is more dynamic; suggested that the City include a sign somewhere that says "Artesia Arts District" or "Arts District" but didn't know if that came with a lot of requirements; wondered if the City could approach property owners to clean up their properties so that the entrance to Redondo Beach would be more impressive.

Nancy Skiba (via Zoom), District 4, voiced her concern that artwork in the medians would be too distracting for drivers; noted that there have been several accidents between Blossom and Green and cars have ended up in the median; worried that the artwork would be damaged if that happens; spoke of the embedded LED lighted crosswalks in Manhattan Beach that enhance pedestrian safety and suggested the City consider looking at that as an option for Redondo Beach.

City Clerk Manzano reported no hands raised and one eComment opposed.

Mayor Light asked Beau Basse if there was a reason LeBasse only chose the median for sculptures and no sidewalks.

Beau Basse stated the strategic thought was to get people to stop and notice that the area is not just a freeway pass through of Artesia Blvd but that there is more to that corridor; spoke of trying to brand the area with larger scale elements on the gateways and then adding smaller moments and some seating as functional elements; noted that phase two has more benches, bus installations, small shade structures, and other small elements; stated they are not opposed to smaller scale works.

Mayor Light asked if Beau Basse had any images of median art in his briefing.

Beau Basse showed some samples of vertical structures but did not have median art samples to show; stated the median art would be something large and vertical, or they could do a lighting installation as potential typology; noted the medians have a narrow footprint so they are thinking more vertical and stated they have some renderings in the strategic plan.

Mayor Light asked the Council if they were ready to narrow down the project and provide direction.

Councilmember Obagi stated that the collective wisdom is better than the individuals and, since he heard strong support for the NRB bike path crosswalk, he is inclined to keep one crosswalk art and assign it to the NRB bike path; mentioned he had interviewed Juan Melendez for the Art Commission and when asked if he would put art at the crosswalk he said no, he would not want drivers' vision blocked as his daughter crosses the street;

asked Beau Basse if they have considered the visibility for the kids as they cross.

Beau Basse stated they have seen people slow down when they put large scale sculptures in those types of spaces.

Mayor Light asked if Public Works would still have to approve anything to make sure things are not blocking sight lines.

City Manager Witzansky responded yes, they would need to make sure guidelines are met and noted that more verticality does tend to slow speeds down.

Councilmember Obagi asked Director Hause if she had any thoughts since her office is on Artesia Blvd.

Community Services Director Hause stated they would welcome the installation of art at the Green intersection.

Mayor Light asked, if they are considering art in front of the North Branch Library, would it be better to re-space the median art, so they aren't across from each other.

Beau Basse stated they could certainly move it if Council preferred that.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi to approve the strategic plan with these changes: the plus \$35,000 for inclusive art installation of North Branch Library, direction for community engagement and public outreach.

City Manager Witzansky pointed out that to add the \$35,000 they are going to need a 4/5 resolution or address the funds at budget season if they want to operate within the contingency.

Councilmember Obagi reported watching the Cultural Arts Commission meeting and their request was to have the appropriation done as soon as possible because they wanted LeBasse to be able to work on the LGBTQ project along with Artesia Blvd in phase one; stated ideally it comes back as a resolution in January so they can approve it on Consent.

City Manager Witzansky stated with that direction staff can bring it back quickly and confirmed it is a fully inclusive budget from the John Parsons Art Fund.

Discussion followed to clean up the verbiage being used so there is no confusion.

Councilmember Behrendt asked Beau Basse if he had any concerns over the changes Council is making.

Beau Basse stated the changes make sense and he liked the idea of keeping at least one crosswalk and if it works well they can maybe add to phase two; noted that the CAC did make a request for additional smaller scale works so recommended if they remove one

crosswalk to roll that money into smaller interactive elements; to answer Councilmember Behrendt's question whether the smaller interactive elements needed to be added in phase one or if it could wait till phase two, he stated the CAC and the community wanted more smaller interactive in phase one; recapped phase one would have the major gateway installations, a crosswalk, benches, and now the smaller interactive pieces.

Discussion followed on examples of interactive pieces such as viewfinders, or things mounted to light posts.

Councilmember Castle summarized his understanding of the installations as the median sculptures are to try to slow traffic flow of drivers going up and down Artesia, the crosswalks are for pedestrians, and that the smaller interactive pieces are for people walking along Artesia.

Beau Basse stated based on all the feedback having two median installations, one crosswalk (which will be a tester for phase two), concrete benches, and allocating some money to some smaller interactive elements would be great for phase one.

Councilmember Obagi stated his thought was to do a big bang of art that is highly visible down the median to send the message to the development community, as the City undergoes regulatory changes on Artesia Blvd, that the area is artsy and they rebuild and redevelop with art in mind.

Beau Basse said that was their thought in prioritizing the median sculptures in the first phase versus small interactive art.

City Manager Witzansky stated, from a fiscal standpoint, sculptures and the medians tend to have less interaction with pedestrians, tend to last longer, and have less risk of vandalism and have more of a legacy impact; stated the interactive sculptures will require maintenance and they have limited egress ingress space on the City sidewalks so the installations will be challenging; recommended keeping the interactive art to phase two.

More discussion followed regarding what phase one should include and the reasons why; maintenance requirements that will be needed, especially for the crosswalk, and the longevity of the installations.

Beau Basse assured the Council that every meeting he talks about the logistics of conservation and maintenance.

Mayor Light asked about the surveys for the installation at the North Branch Library.

Councilmember Obagi mentioned outreach and discussion as well for the public.

Beau Basse stated in their allocated additional fees they are expected to do additional community engagement.

Councilmember Behrendt seconded the motion made by Councilmember Obagi

City Manager Witzansky stated that staff will come back with a modifying resolution to add to this CIP and might even in the document clarify the allocation so it is clear to the public how the City is prioritizing the specific projects going forward; to answer Mayor Light's question, he clarified he is not bringing back the whole decision but want to make it very clear in the staff report how the \$400,000 and now \$85,000 will be allocated.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

## **O. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**

City Manager Witzansky reminded everyone that the holiday closure is close and the last day for counter functions: building counter, planning counter, City Clerk's office, etc. will be next Monday; noted City Hall will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> and reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup>; encouraged the public to get any counter business completed by the end of business on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> for anything needed for 2025; announced that the January agenda will be posted by COB on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and the focus will be on phase two of the General Plan.

## **P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS**

### **P.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF CITY MANAGER AND ANY DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING POTENTIAL CONTRACT AMENDMENTS**

Councilmember Obagi reported the Council is called upon in their contract with the City Manager to conduct an evaluation every year; stated Council started the process in November, have had several meetings, they will continue the evaluation process into next year, and they made a motion to send it to the City Manager when finalized so he can review it and the Council and City Manager can discuss it in Closed Session in January; noted it is a confidential document; stated from what he has gathered the Council has great approval for the City Manager's work and wants to retain him; spoke highly of the City Manager from his own experiences in seeing the progress in City staff, programs, and the leadership in all the departments; provided numerous examples of situations that were handled by the City Manager's office; spoke of the constraints the City has by the lack of revenue that the City is not generating; stated that Council's recommendation is to increase the City Manager's salary from \$295,000 to \$305,000 which will take affect on January 1, 2026 and the term of his contract to be extended to December 31, 2028.

Councilmember Behrendt spoke of the position of City Manager being an intense and responsibility heavy position and he is running City operations in a community of 70,000 people and all the departments within the City; spoke in support of the annual increase in salary and commended Mike Witzansky on the work he does.

Mayor Light noted he has been involved in the City's politics since 2000 and Mike

Witzansky is the fourth City Manager he has seen; stated Mike Witzansky is the best performing, most forward leaning, and most sensitive to the community City Manager he has witnessed; spoke of the progress the City has had since Mike Witzansky has taken over the position and fully supports the recommendation.

Councilmember Waller spoke about the amount of work the City Manager does outside of normal business hours and commented that it is a 24-hour job; voiced support for the salary increase.

Councilmember Kaluderovic agreed with all the comments made but given the current fiscal situation felt a 2.5% increase would be more reasonable and, given it is an annual review, hoped they could do more in the following year.

Councilmember Castle spoke of the complexity of the City Manager's position and that he has grown to understand how much the City Manager needs to coordinate with the various departments and the functions of the City.

Councilmember Obagi commented that he understands Councilmember Kaluderovic's concern that the budget is tight but is concerned about compaction between the top of the City's other ranks and the City Manager; spoke of the City Manager's dedication to the City and the people that surround him and felt they need to show their appreciation for his commitment 24/7 to the City.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Behrendt, to direct the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to the contract as provided in their subcommittee report.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

City Clerk Manzano reported no eComments and no one online.

Motion carried 4-1. Councilmember Kaluderovic was opposed.

## **Q.     MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF**

Mayor Light announced he would be out of town starting on Thursday and back on January 5, 2026 but would be available via email, text, and phone; asked Council for a referral to staff to discuss the legality of using automated license plate readers.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if they can have more discussion before making it a formal referral.

Councilmember Waller reported speaking to the Mayor about the item already and the request is for staff to look into the legality and viability of it before they come back to Council.

City Manager Witzansky stated, if it is a referral, staff would come back with a high level title which basically gives the Council the opportunity to discuss it conceptually and then provide staff direction to follow up on whatever policy issue might arise; stated if they wanted staff to look at it as a budget tool it would be explored through a BRR and would trail until the 26-27 budget consideration.

Mayor Light asked that it just be looked at from a legality perspective.

More discussion followed on the reasons for the request and whether it is a topic the Council would like on the agenda for conversation and then formal direction on follow up action.

Councilmember Behrendt stated he would prefer to postpone the referral until the first meeting in January so he could take a closer look at it since it is a potentially big item that will need the City Attorney's time as well.

City Manager Witzansky explained that until a referral is submitted staff will not work on the item, it needs to be added to their work plan, and until it is added no research will be done on it; noted that the City is in the process of appointing a new Police Chief and they will have to find the right timeframe for staff to work on the automated license plate reader.

Councilmember Waller questioned if Councilmember Behrendt's efforts would be duplicating what they are asking the City Attorney to research.

Councilmember Behrendt stated he is available to talk further if needed.

Motion by Councilmember Waller, in deference to the Mayor, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, to request a referral to staff to look into the viability and legality of automated license plate readers for the City.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

Councilmember Behrendt clarified that he is not opposed to the referral but wanted to be mindful of staff's time and getting the new Police Chief settled in and didn't want to add to their plate without doing some research first.

City Manager Witzansky asked if there was a specific timeframe for the initial discussion.

Councilmember Waller suggested springtime which City Manager Witzansky was agreeable to.

## **R. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

### **R.1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL AND LABOR NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Sec. 54957.6.**

**AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:**  
**Mike Witzansky, City Manager**  
**Diane Strickfaden, Director of Human Resources**

**EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS:**  
**Redondo Beach Police Officers' Association, Redondo Beach Police Management Unit and Management and Confidential Employees**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRICKFADEN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**R.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:**  
**230 Portofino Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277**  
**(a portion of APN: 7503-029-903)**

**NEGOTIATING PARTIES:**  
**John Warner, Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, a non-profit corporation**

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:**  
**Terms**

**R.3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.**

**AGENCY NEGOTIATORS:**  
**Mike Witzansky, City Manager**  
**Greg Kapovich, Waterfront & Economic Development Director**

**PROPERTY:**  
**239 & 245 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277**  
**(portions of APN: 7503-029-903)**

**NEGOTIATING PARTIES:**  
**Allen Sanford, CA Surf Club**

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:**  
**Lease Status, Price, and Terms**

**R.4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL**

**MATTER/EVALUATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54957(b).**

**Title: City Manager**

**S. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION - None**

**T. ADJOURNMENT – 9:13 P.M.**

**T.1. ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF DR. C.M. CHANTAL TOPOROW, FORMER REDONDO BEACH COMMISSIONER**

**T.2. ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF LINDA NEAL, POET AND LONG TIME REDONDO BEACH RESIDENT**

Mayor Light spoke of the two residents they were adjourning in honor of; noted that Linda Neal was a big supporter of the resident activities around the Harbor and over development and was sad to see her go.

Motion by Councilmember Waller, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Dr. C.M. Chantal Toporow and Linda Neal at 9:13 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

The next meeting of the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach will be 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, January 6, 2026, in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chamber, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

Mayor Light wished everyone a happy holiday.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

*Eleanor Manzano*

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Eleanor Manzano, CMC  
City Clerk