



Minutes
Redondo Beach City Council
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
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, Behrendt, Mayor Light
Councilmember Obagi (arrived at 4:02 p.m.)

Councilmembers Absent: None

Officials Present: Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Joy Ford, City Attorney
Derek Kalish, Assistant City Clerk

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

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one on Zoom and no eComments.

F. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

F.1. 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:

**Cornelia Blakely v. City of Redondo Beach, and Does 1 through 25, inclusive
Case Number: 24TRCV02937**

F.2. 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:

Claudia Siracusa v. City of Redondo Beach, a public entity, et al.

Case Number: 26TRCV00905

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

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

Mike Witzansky, City Manager

Elizabeth Hause, Waterfront & Community Services Director

Katherine Buck, Waterfront & Economic Development Manager

Jon Goetz, Redwood Public Law

PROPERTY:

100 International Boardwalk, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

130 International Boardwalk, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

(a portion of APN: 7505-002-932)

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Jeff Jones, Quality Seafood, Inc.

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Lease Status, Price, and Terms

- F.4. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.**

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

Mike Witzansky, City Manager

Elizabeth Hause, Waterfront & Community Services Director

Katherine Buck, Waterfront & Economic Development Manager

PROPERTY:

Basin 3 Slips, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

(a portion of APN: 7505-002-932)

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Various Tenants

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Price

Assistant City Clerk Kalish read titles to be discussed in 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, Outside Legal Counsel Joshua Dale, Outside Legal Counsel Damien Capozzola, Waterfront and Community Services Director Elizabeth Hause, and W.E.D. Manager Katherine Buck.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to recess to Closed Session at 4:03 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

G. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Light reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 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
Derek Kalish, Assistant City Clerk

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

City Manager Witzansky stated no reportable action that evening.

J. ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Councilmember Castle, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to adjourn to the Regular Meeting at 6:01 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 6:01 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
Derek Kalish, Assistant City Clerk

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

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

Maya, 3rd grader at Beryl Heights 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

Mayor Light reported speaking at the League of California Cities Board of Directors meeting held in Redondo Beach on Thursday night; met with the City's auditors to discuss their audit of the City; attended the Sanitation District meeting for the City's district, noted that they mostly spoke about the boring accident outside of Palos Verdes.

Councilmember Waller reported that the RBPD Battle of the Badges Blood Drive was the week before and they set a record for the number of donations but did not meet the goal of 150; stated he had the honor of installing the 2026-27 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on Monday morning, congratulated new Chair Michelle Brown and the other new officers; reported that the Riviera Village Association had their Board meeting that morning and congratulated new RVA Board President Kim Judy; announced the NRBBA Summer Mixer would be at Artesia Bar on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., he would be attending the South Bay Cities Council of Governments' Board meeting on Thursday, that Dine-Around-Artesia is on July 29th, Cruzin' the Lagoon is every Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Harbor parking lot, and live music at the Pier is on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the summer.

Councilmember Castle congratulated King Harbor Yacht Club for raising \$85,000 at their Annual Regatta for Cure Cancer, noted that the funds are donated to Cedars-Sinai Research Lab for Cancer Research; announced his Community Meeting on Thursday, at the Library, at 5:30 p.m. and Councilmember Behrendt would be hosting it with him; stated they would be focusing on economic development for the City.

Councilmember Kaluderovic thanked Officer Lofstrom for organizing the blood drive; reported attending the South Bay Housing Trust Board meeting last Thursday, stated they discussed options of programs that the Trust could fund and listed some of the programs discussed.

Councilmember Obagi reported that they met with the owner of the property at 182nd and Kingsdale, stated that the owner just got approval to submit their building plans for a 150-unit townhome development that will be for sale and include 20% affordable units; thanked the City's Engineering team and the Public Works Department for the safety enhancement at the crossing at Ripley and Flagler.

Mayor Light announced the ribbon cutting for the Bill Brand Gateway Park at 182nd St. at 3:00 p.m.

E. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to approve the order of agenda as published.

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

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported seven Blue Folder items: H.5, H.6, H.8, H.17, J.1, N.1, and N.3.

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 JULY 21, 2026

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. JUNE 16, 2026 ADJOURNED AN REGULAR MEETING**

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

H.4. PAYROLL DEMANDS

**CHECKS 30684-30700 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,030.84, PD. 7/3/26
DIRECT DEPOSIT 313785-314444 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,541,154.32, PD.
7/3/26
CHECKS 30701-30716 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,846.02, PD. 7/17/26
DIRECT DEPOSIT 314445-315120 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,675,870.08, PD.
7/17/26
EFT/ACH \$11,091.01, PD. 6/18/26 (PP2613)
EFT/ACH \$499,645.51, PD. 7/13/26 (PP2613)**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEMANDS

**CHECKS 125451-125696 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,106,342.27
EFT QMINDER LTD 10,888.00**

CONTACT: STEPHANIE MEYER, FINANCE DIRECTOR

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

- 1. APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH STATION AUTOMATION, INC. DBA
PSTRAX FOR ELECTRONIC LOGGING SYSTEMS FOR THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,749.11 AND THE
TERM JUNE 20, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 19, 2029**

CONTACT: PATRICK BUTLER, FIRE CHIEF

- 2. APPROVE A LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH BARRICADE AI, INC. TO
PROVIDE A COMPUTER REPORT WRITING SOFTWARE PLATFORM FOR A
60-DAY NO COST TRIAL PERIOD WITH AN OPTION TO CONTINUE FOR AN
ADDITIONAL 10 MONTHS AT A COST OF \$50 PER USER, PER MONTH, FOR
AN ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE OF \$6,000 AND THE TERM JULY 21, 2026
THROUGH JULY 20, 2027, UNLESS TERMINATED DURING THE TRIAL
PERIOD**

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPRENGEL, CHIEF OF POLICE

**H.6. DECLARING THE FOLLOWING COMMISSION POSITIONS VACANT BASED
ON ABSENCE FROM 3 OR MORE MEETINGS SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2025, PER
REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-9.107(7) AND;**

AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO POST NOTICE OF VACANCIES FOR THE BUDGET & FINANCE, CULTURAL ART, PUBLIC AMENITIES, AND PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION POSITIONS.

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

- H.7. ACCEPT AS COMPLETE THE ARTESIA BOULEVARD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, JOB NO. 41330, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY ENGINEER TO FILE A NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE PROJECT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER AND TO RELEASE THE RETENTION PAYMENT UPON EXPIRATION OF THE 35-DAY LIEN PERIOD AFTER SAID RECORDATION AND NO CLAIMS BEING FILED UPON THE PROJECT**

CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.8. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. 3313-26 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 6, SECTION 3-6.03 OF THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO PARKING METER HOURLY RATES. FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION**

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPRENGEL, CHIEF OF POLICE

- H.9. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2607-054, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF A REPORT MADE BY THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE REDONDO BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 13146.4 REGARDING THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF CERTAIN OCCUPANCIES PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 13146.2 AND 13146.3**

CONTACT: PATRICK BUTLER, FIRE CHIEF

- H.10. APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 20 REPLACEMENT WALKWAY LIGHT POLES AND FIXTURES FROM SOUTH COAST LIGHTING AND DESIGN FOR VETERANS PARK AT A COST OF \$93,068**

CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.11. APPROVE A TRANSIT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH FOR THE OPERATION OF BEACH CITIES TRANSIT LINE 109 FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, FOR A FEE OF \$29,125 ADOPT BY 4/5THS VOTE AND TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2607-055, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING**

A FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 BUDGET MODIFICATION TO ALLOCATE \$29,125 FROM THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH FOR BEACH CITIES TRANSIT LINE 109 COST SHARING TO THE CITY'S TRANSIT FUND

CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, WATERFRONT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

- H.12. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2607-056, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET MODIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE \$198,126 IN PERMANENT LOCAL HOUSING ALLOCATION FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANT FUND**

CONTACT: JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

- H.13. APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT DUTY AND PRACTICE AMMUNITION FROM DOOLEY ENTERPRISES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,762 CONTACT: STEPHEN SPRENGEL, CHIEF OF POLICE**
H.14. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CLEAR INC. FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000 FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2027

CONTACT: JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

- H.15. APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT (SLESA) WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR COURT SECURITY SERVICES IN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AND HERMOSA BEACH FOR HOUSING INITIATIVE COURT FOR THE TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031, UNLESS TERMINATED PRIOR BY EITHER PARTY**

CONTACT: JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

- H.16. RECEIVE AND FILE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 799, WHICH, IF APPROVED BY THE STATE, WOULD BROADEN THE SOUTH BAY REGIONAL HOUSING TRUST'S POWERS AND UPDATE ITS BOARD STRUCTURE**

CONTACT: JANE CHUNG, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

- H.17. APPROVE AN EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AND MULTIVERSE PLATFORMS INC FOR 123 INTERNATIONAL BOARDWALK, THE FORMER FUN FACTORY SPACE**

CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, WATERFRONT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

H.18. RECEIVE AND FILE THE MONTHLY UPDATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 5, 2026

CONTACT: LUKE SMUDE, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

Motion by Councilmember Castle, seconded by Councilmember Waller, to approve items H.1 through H.18.

Mayor Light invited public comment.

Ron Maroko, District 3, spoke regarding item H.6; referenced municipal code section 2-9.101 regarding the removal of a Commissioner by the majority of the Council; referenced Ordinance 2-9.107 regarding vacancies, noted it is the first use of an automatic vacancy ordinance; said there are issues that the Council should consider in the wording of the Ordinance: it is self-executing and there is no discretion to the Council since the vacancy is built into the Ordinance, how is it different than the Charter except that the Council still acts so it is not automatic, and who notifies the individuals that they have been removed from the Commission; spoke about absences in the Commissions where the person has attended subsequent meetings even though they are no longer on the Commission; questioned how they would keep them from taking a seat; stated that with the vacancy of three from the PAC there will only be four left, which is barely a quorum; reported another person's term will be up from the PAC after two more meetings; stated that he sent suggestions to the Mayor.

Mayor Light stated that an email went out to each of the Commissioners informing them.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online and one eComment for H.16 opposed.

Councilmember Obagi thanked Public Works and the engineering team for their work on H.7; reported that the new safety measures looked great and worked well for bike riders and drivers.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish read H.8 adopt by title only Ordinance No. 3313-26, H.9 adopt by title only Resolution No. CC-2607-054, H.11 adopted by 4/5th vote and title only Resolution No. CC-2607-055, and H.12 adopt by title only Resolution No. CC-2607-056.

Mayor Light noted that the City has an exclusive negotiating agreement for the Fun Factory site that just got approved; hoped that the City and the proponent of it could come to a good outcome after the exclusive negotiating period.

I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

Mark Marriott, 20-year resident, voiced concern over Redondo Beach using Flock Safety as their surveillance company; reported that Flock Safety has a nationwide network of cameras that are networked with all the other cameras and other law enforcement departments all across the country; noted that Redondo Beach does not have any control over how other law enforcement agencies will utilize the cameras; provided several examples of misuse by law enforcement agencies and the Federal government, noted multiple officers nationwide have been fired or charged with stalking their ex-partners through the use of Flock cameras; cited more cases of abuse and mistrust with law enforcement and the Federal government involving Flock Safety; suggested that the City take down any cameras they have up before it is too late.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no hands raised online and one eComment for J.1 in opposition.

Ron Maroko stated that he had three topics to cover: 1) reported that, on August 5th, Wilderness Park was referred to staff and should hopefully be coming back to Council to decide if it should be a landmark, 2) stated that the Dawidziak parkette was referred in August 2025, asked that it be brought back and be done, and 3) referenced the utility boxes that Commissioner Melendez spoke of the week prior, reported that on July 20, 2021, Council approved a utility box for Ashish Sharma and Rishi Pandey but it had never been put up or promoted to be put up by staff, commented that they are going to be getting more utility boxes, and hoped that the Council would refer to staff that they include the two boxes that were Council approved but not installed to be part of the consideration when the opportunity presents itself again.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no participants online.

Laura MacMorran, District 1, thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and energy, noted that she does not always agree with their decisions, but respects the office they hold; stated that in 1926, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that zoning is a constitutionally valid exercise of local government power; referenced the landmark case Euclid, OH versus Ambler Realty where it was found that zoning is rooted in government's police power, that police power is there to protect public health, safety, and welfare; noted that zoning remains one of Planning's main implementation methods; announced that from October 3rd through the 6th, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association will hold its Annual State Conference in Los Angeles; reported that it will provide 97 sessions about planning issues, State legislation, housing affordability, climate resilience, technology, and mobility; encouraged the City to take advantage of the educational opportunity.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no participants online.

Wayne Craig recalled that he mentioned, at one of the public meetings hosted by Councilmembers Behrendt and Obagi, that the City has a data sharing contract with Peregrine Technologies; reported that the founders of Peregrine came from a company called Palantir, which is a large data company that holds billions of dollars in contracts with the government; voiced concern that the former RBPd Chief is a consultant for Peregrine Technology and reported that elected officials have a sunset period, where they cannot work for a company they helped get a contract for while they were in office; noted that he mentioned it to the City Attorney, respected the Council's review of it, and hoped the contract with Peregrine is ironclad; commented that data can be shared to be used against people who are not doing anything wrong; said the hope would be that data is shared to catch those that have slipped through the system but that the City should not be caught up in it; noted that there have been ICE raids in Redondo Beach and there is a possibility it was through data that was shared; suggested that a review of the contract is needed, that the City should know where the data is being shared, and how long the data is retained.

Nancy Skiba (via Zoom) wanted to encourage people to go to district meetings outside of their own district and to also participate in the Citizens Police Academy that Redondo Beach offers; reported that she was in Class 41 and learned a lot about the different parts of law enforcement.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no hands raised online.

K. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

L. PUBLIC HEARINGS

M. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

N. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

N.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MODIFICATION TO THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO HEDGE-RELATED ORDINANCES

CONTACT: JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Ford stated that staff is seeking direction on whether the Council would like to make any amendments to the Hedge-related ordinances; noted that staff has a few recommendations for them and could bring back a draft for first reading at the next meeting with any additional amendments they would like; reported that she was joined by Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Stephanie Johnson and Legal Intern Cole Webb; noted that Legal Intern Cole Webb would be giving the presentation that evening.

Mayor Light stated that the package talked about recommendations from two members of the Council; asked if those would be worked into the presentation.

City Attorney Ford responded that the presentation broadly covers different topics, then they will open it up for discussion, and Council can provide direction to staff.

Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Johnson stated, in order to prepare for the discussion that evening, they reviewed ordinances from various Southern California cities, consulted with City departments, and gathered feedback from residents; said they recognize any changes will impact the community and City objectives so their objective that evening is to offer recommendations that bring clarity and consistent guidance to Citywide hedge enforcement.

Legal Intern Webb provided some background into the item, stating that, in December of 2025, code enforcement began receiving an influx of complaints regarding over-height hedges throughout the City; stated that Code Enforcement issued correction notices to property owners who were allegedly in violation; reported that the enforcement led to increased questions from property owners and residents about the current state of the law and how alleged violations are enforced; stated that the City Attorney's Office identified three key issues while reviewing the current hedge ordinance; 1) lack of definition as to what constitutes a hedge, 2) the level of penalty for height-only violations, and 3) who may file a complaint with the City; stated, in regard to the first issue, Redondo Beach Municipal Code (RBMC) only has a definition for tree but not hedge and this has led to some confusion and disputes when dealing with Code Enforcement; stated that staff recommended adding definitions for fence or wall, hedge, height, and vegetation to RBMC; stated, in regard to the second issue, the current penalty for height-only violation is a strict misdemeanor under the RBMC but a wobblette is more serious and can be a misdemeanor or an infraction so staff recommended reclassifying violations of height-only as either an infraction or misdemeanor to make enforcement more consistent; noted that Code Enforcement received several anonymous complaints that alleged height-only violations, so the City Attorney's Office reviewed several local ordinances on who may file a complaint; stated, in regard to the third issue, the City Attorney's Office recommended adding a bona fide complainant standard to the RBMC, which would limit height-only complaints to those who are actually impacted by the alleged violation but not prohibit complaints to public nuisance violations; reported that feedback from the City departments was unanimous for no increase to the current height requirements of the hedge ordinance but departments' concerns included: preserving sight lines for First Responders, public safety, and ADA compliance requirements; stated that several City departments also recommended that City Council consider an administrative design review process for property owners with non-conforming vegetation; summarized that the City Attorney's Office recommended adding the definitions he went over earlier in the presentation to the RBMC, reclassifying height-only violations as an infraction or a misdemeanor, and adding new language on who may file complaints for alleged violations.

Mayor Light stated that the package provided potential definitions of hedge and asked if staff had any specific recommendations on which one or if they are leaving that up to Council.

Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Johnson responded that they reviewed several ordinances from other cities and combined them to establish a Redondo Beach definition, which she stated was on page 3 in their Administrative Report.

Mayor Light pointed out that the briefing does not say what the recommendation is, but the Administrative Report does and just wanted to be clear; asked if staff had recommendations as it related to height.

Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Johnson responded that the height should remain the same.

Mayor Light clarified that he was referring to whether it should be a misdemeanor or a penalty for height only.

Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Johnson replied that the City Attorney's Office recommended that Council consider modifying it from a misdemeanor to a wobblette; explained that if there are ongoing violations that are not corrected it could potentially rise to a misdemeanor.

Mayor Light noted that it escalates over time for lack of addressing the infraction.

Councilmember Behrendt commented that the City Attorney's Office along with the City Manager's Office and other departments did a thorough review and captured it well; reviewed the recommendations in the Administrative Report, as well as the recommendations provided by Councilmember Obagi and himself, so they could lay it all out; noted that item 1 included clear and updated definitions of what constitutes a hedge, fences, and walls, item 2 revised the Ordinance to provide the City Attorney's Office with some discretion to charge certain violations as a misdemeanor or an infraction (aka wobblette), item 3 included a bona fide complaint requirement, noted that it would reduce the likelihood of unnecessary complaint filings, expenditures of time and resources, and enforcement of minor, trivial, or inconsequential violations, item 4 ensures the City retains independent discretion to seek enforcement of the ordinance for violations concerning Police, Fire, and public safety matters and went through examples of the types of violations that would cover, item 5 included an Administrative Design Review Process for hedge heights in excess of the 42 inches to be reviewed and potentially approved by the Community Development Director or designee, voiced concern that item 5 would involve administrative burden and cost; suggested, if Council went along with item 5, some cost recovery element be attached to it; requested that staff explore the feasibility and come back with some options regarding item 5; spoke of including a neat and orderly requirement for all hedges in the City for item 6, agreed that revising the statement of purposes in the ordinance to capture and explain the intentions and reasoning for the revision at the beginning would be helpful for item 7, and noted that item 8 had miscellaneous items for consideration, but highlighted 8B, which was to add a new height limit for high visual obstructions (HVOs); stated that the City Attorney's Office did not adopt it but that maybe it could be revisited at another time; spoke about the need to ensure reasonable notice and opportunity for people to fix the violation rather than immediately go to enforcement, which was mentioned by Councilmember Obagi, except

for critical and/or urgent violations; recapped that Councilmember Obagi and himself are mostly in alignment with the City Attorney's Office.

Mayor Light thanked Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt for the work they put into reviewing the ordinance; asked, regarding the ADR, if they would consider that the nearest neighbors be notified so they are aware and could weigh in on it.

Councilmember Behrendt stated he and Councilmember Obagi discussed that and concluded a process like that would involve staff time, notice of a hearing, and people coming in to speak, which is why they suggested staff took a deeper look into the need for an ADR.

Councilmember Obagi asked to hear from staff and the City Manager on what they thought the ability of the City would be to process exceptions.

City Manager Witzansky noted that the Planning and Building divisions have a lot on their plates; stated that the recommendations made that evening are supported by staff and are consistent with the quasi subcommittee's work; spoke about the need to be cautious with regard to the ADR item and, if they do go down that path, that clear objectives and standards are developed; voiced concern that it would create friction between neighbors and put staff in a difficult position; read from the review: "Maintaining low fences and hedges and front yards is a fundamental urban design principle that improves character, safety, and livability of neighborhoods. Low front yard landscaping creates an open, welcoming appearance and allows the homes to contribute visually to the street."; stated that is a fundamental principle to the way the City has developed their neighborhoods and that it is a variance and a high level exception; stressed that it should not become a process towards how people can enclose their front yards but the objective criterion needs to be created so that it does not become a standard long term; stated that traffic engineering and public safety considerations were well articulated in the Staff Report; noted that the triangle methodology, increased sight lines at all intersections, driveways, crosswalks, etc., that Traffic Engineer Liu mentioned is very important; stated the City can live with the 42 inch standard that exists in the code currently but future consideration would be given to lowering that number around driveways and with homes that are on corners with critical intersections; noted that the ADA path to travel and the quality of maintenance is understandable; spoke about public safety for Police and Fire being critical and hedges growing too high which could create entanglements in roof structures and fire risks; opined that the Council should work from the recommendations made by Councilmembers Behrendt and Obagi but item 5 would need more review and stated it should have full cost recovery for any kind of ADR process.

Councilmember Obagi suggested Council send it back to staff with direction to pursue it and flush it out so they can come up with full cost options.

City Manager Witzansky commented that once staff set the criteria, they will know what standard of review they will create which would include workload and volume; noted that it becomes more expansive and more deliberate with neighbor-to-neighbor involvement.

Mayor Light voiced concern with variances the City might potentially approve through an ADR process for people's backyards, noted that a neighbor might not be happy about it but would have no recourse since the City allowed it.

City Manager Witzansky said typically the City's ADRs are subject to appeal; spoke of creating an expanded review process but that would lead to noticing and public hearings.

Mayor Light suggested going away from ADRs; stated it wasn't right to approve something that the abutting neighbor never knew was happening; provided a personal experience he had with a neighbor regarding overgrown trees.

City Manager Witzansky commented that undoubtedly there will be concern from neighbor to neighbor on those types of issues; stated that an ADR might not be the right process and that a CUP or a traditional variance hearing would be better.

Mayor Light asked Councilmember Behrendt if they had a definition for "adjacent or nearby".

Councilmember Behrendt reported that the City Attorney's Office drafted one and believed it was 150 ft. from the location.

Councilmember Obagi thanked the District 4 residents that spoke to them about the complaints filed and the actions they took; noted that it pushed him to work on it and confer with Councilmember Behrendt; thanked Councilmember Behrendt for coming up with a bona fide compliant definition and crafting a new Hedge Ordinance; thanked the Quality-of-Life Prosecutor and the City Attorney's Office for researching other municipalities and conferring with all the necessary departments; stated that he realized much more was involved in hedge heights than he understood; noted what City Manager Witzansky read also stood out to him as well as the sentence about lower fences and hedges strengthening neighborhood interactions; said he agreed more or less with everything Councilmember Behrendt said; asked that residents, who have hedges over 42 inches, provide the Council with reasons why they should be able to keep them so Council can decide whether or not it is worthwhile to come up with an alternative process; reported that he received an email from Hai Tran, who was there that evening, who stated his property sits below the grade of the sidewalk and pointed out that the definition needs to clarify if the height requirement starts from the sidewalk grade or the grade of the property; stated that the current definition says "the finished grade versus the existing grade" but questioned which one would be the finished grade in Mr. Tran's situation; requested that a clearer definition that bodes in favor of privacy that is not higher than 42 inches from the public walkway.

City Manager Witzansky stated there is a contrary to Mr. Tran's scenario where the finished grade might be above the sidewalk; suggested an either or type standard be created.

Councilmember Obagi agreed that flexibility would be needed for grade differentials;

stated that he understood the District 4 residents who complained that the hedges provide shade and cools down their properties but noted it can also become a safety issue if Police and Fire are not able to see if a person is there who shouldn't be; stated that he supported all the recommendations made.

Mayor Light asked Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt if they wanted to form a subcommittee with themselves and staff, or if they wanted to turn the broad recommendations over to staff and let them work on it.

Councilmember Obagi said some details with the ADR need to be ironed out but felt staff would come up with a good definition for height.

Councilmember Behrendt wanted to hear input from the rest of the Council first; agreed that City Attorney's Office could draft something which had the removal of the HVO area, the removal of the 24 inches, and that worked on the ADR potential process; mentioned the details would be critical.

Discussion followed.

Councilmember Obagi asked for clarification if staff's recommendation on the HVOs was to go up to 36 inches or to leave it out completely.

Quality-of-Life Prosecutor Johnson stated that it is 36 inches in the triangle areas and 42 inches for driveways in the current ordinance and they would keep it that way.

Councilmember Obagi voiced support for that.

Councilmember Waller commented that the hedge height should be measured from the taller of the two grades and could be worded as "the taller of the two" subject to safety; stated, with housing being tighter and taller, consideration of eight feet for interior side and rear yards would be reasonable and to keep sight line requirements on intersections and driveways; supported the idea of the 24 inch, five by five triangle HVO at the driveways and similar situations; noted that he gets complaints from residents trying to back out of their driveways and not being able to see; said he is amenable to modifying it but liked the 24 inches; asked that the ordinance protect mature vegetation where possible, noted that heritage trees are protected in the City, but understood it could not be a blanket on all heritage hedges but hoped there could be something in the code to recognize it; reported that he spoke to the City Attorney earlier and she would look into some possible language for it; voiced support for the other items that Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt provided.

Councilmember Obagi asked the City Traffic Engineer if he thought the 36-inch height limit for the HOV area would be beneficial.

City Traffic Engineer Liu responded that it could provide better visibility in the five by five HOV area and that is why they included the statement about Santa Monica in their report;

stated that staff did not strongly recommend it because it would automatically create a lot of non-conforming properties in the City but it is a creative new practice that Santa Monica is using; noted that it treats driveways as mini intersections but that their ordinance does have some leeway for existing fences; highlighted it as another tool that the City could use and that 36 inches would be helpful in terms of safety for pedestrians and drivers; spoke of trends towards EVs and larger vehicles steering the trend towards lower height limits.

Councilmember Obagi noted that the City is complaint driven and does not do code enforcement unless there is a complaint first by a resident; asked if there would be a reason to provide the City with independent discretion if the City does not actually enforce things without a complaint.

City Manager Witzansky responded that typically, due to resources and staffing, the City operates on a complaint basis but there are instances where the City may proactively address policy matter of the City through enforcement action; reported that they are currently addressing a list of complaints specific to Traffic Engineering confirmed sight line issues; opined it would be important that it be part of the City's policy goals whether it is written in or not, stated they should always have that right; hoped that the code would provide the City the right to enforce what is in the code absent a complaint but, if needed, they should make it abundantly clear to the community.

City Attorney Ford stated that what Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt are calling "critical", the City Attorney's Office would label as one of the City's nuisances and they would have the discretion to enforce it; commented she does not think additional language is needed for it and that is why it wasn't a recommendation; stated to address the concern, the City does have the discretion under the nuisance code.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if the City Attorney would be able to draft an ordinance that would be enforceable to capture what the City Manager described for the broader violations laid out in item 4.

City Attorney Ford responded yes, they could do that.

Mayor Light commented that he liked what staff wrote about the City's discretion because, if someone who wasn't a bona fide complainant wrote in about a credible complaint, it would allow the City the discretion to consider it, whereas the other way the City would disregard it.

Discussion followed regarding encroachments and other types of scenarios that may not fall under nuisance that could still be addressed.

City Manager Witzansky emphasized that the goal is to create the specific rules and requirements that all of the City's residents should strive to maintain and correct; cautioned that they don't want to create a system where neighbors do not follow the rules and requirements because they know they won't receive a bona fide complaint; noted

that the City should always have the ability to enforce against the standards with or without a neighbor or bona fide complaint; stated that, in practice, given resources and workload they will still primarily respond to complaints unless it is a traffic engineering concern but they are setting the framework for how the City wants to see hedges maintained.

Mayor Light, speaking directly to Councilmember Waller, said he would not want an eight-foot hedge on his side yard since it would block all the sunlight and would become a maintenance nightmare; stated he would not want that to be a blanket rule.

Some discussion followed.

Councilmember Obagi asked Councilmember Waller if he was requesting a height increase on fences or hedges or both.

Councilmember Waller responded that he didn't mind on both, but did not want to get into fence discussion.

Mayor Light stressed that he did not want a blanket approval on side yards.

Councilmember Behrendt asked for staff's input regarding eight-foot hedges in the back or side yards.

City Manager Witzansky responded that, in conversations he has had with the team, it is not their primary concern; stated that staff are comfortable with the language as drafted, which is currently six feet.

More discussion followed about increasing two feet, the neighbor-to-neighbor scenarios with air, light, and visibility, and issues if it goes within roof lines and gutters; noted that there would be case by case situations.

Mayor Light invited public comment.

Miles Burkart, 14-year resident, provided a visual aid called "Hitchhiker's Guide to Safety Complaints" and noted that residents use Access Redondo Beach to file issues; stated that three things help when a complaint is filed: sending photos, if the person knows it's a safety issue, and if there is a personal impact to them; reported that complaints seem to disappear into a black hole, get closed for invalid reasons or missing reasons, or stay open for years; stated that the ones that get resolved are done partially or are invalid fixes; provided a visual example (he called Where's Waldo) of an intersection where he witnesses rolling stops all the time, reported that he filed a complaint in February and three days later it was closed with no explanation, and, after multiple follow ups, Code Enforcement sent him an email stating the case remained closed because tree height is not regulated under the RBMC; stated that his case reveals many systemic failures: 1) failure of inspection, meaning Code Enforcement didn't look at the property, 2) failure of training, stated code for corner lots clearly regulates trees and any obstruction in the

visibility triangle, 3) failure to understand visibility standards, reported that in his visual “Waldo” is a full size pickup truck at the stop sign but cannot be seen because of the obstruction, and 4) failure of resolution, reported that after he pointed out “Waldo” staff changed their minds and had the property thin the trees to a five-foot tall privacy hedge; asked the Council to direct the City Manager to prioritize an audit of Code Enforcement training and protocols on sight line safety; commented that it is an operational breakdown at the City leadership level; noted that the Blue Folder contains the proof.

Mayor Light asked if Traffic Engineer Liu had seen the picture.

Traffic Engineer Liu reported that he doesn’t recall every single case that comes his way, sometimes cases go straight to Code Enforcement and he may not get looped in, but stated if a complaint is brought to him, he will look at the RBMC; stated he did not recall viewing that photo.

Miles Burkart stated that he walked the property with staff.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported Nancy Skiba was online, but she did not respond and he reported no one else was online.

Motion by Councilmember Waller, seconded by Councilmember Castle, to receive and file.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

Larry and Cindy Genova, 38-year residents, said there were not there to file a complaint but to address the current hedge height code; stated that their house backs up to their neighbor on Graham Ave. and that neighbor has massive bamboo that is overgrown, hangs over their garage, and the rubbish gets into their pants and yard; reported that the neighbor is aware of the issue but does not care; spoke of the dry bamboo being a fire hazard to their property as well as other properties in the neighborhood; stated that they submitted photos to show the Mayor and Council of the yards; said they believe in an individual’s right to privacy and reasonable heights but felt their neighbor is pushing the limits; stated that they don’t want to escalate their conflict but they don’t want to give legal right to grow bamboo in a small area to uncontrolled heights; asked that the height code be enforced, and if the code is changed to raise the height that the City be fair and not allow hedges to reach enormous heights that encroach and spread trash on other properties; hoped for a comprehensive, legally enforceable hedge height code and asked that they advise them when they have that code; asked that they consider their submitted photos when they meet for their proposed rule changes regarding hedge heights.

Councilmember Obagi stated that they could consult an attorney about civil code and their rights, noted that under the current language and future language the ordinance will only work if they do file a complaint.

Cindy Genova questioned that they would need to see an attorney.

Councilmember Obagi clarified that they do not need to see an attorney but, once the City finalizes a new ordinance, they can complain to the City as a bona fide complainant and alternatively they do have remedies potentially under the State law.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Castle, to receive and file.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

Joann Dresner recalled that a few weeks prior her husband spoke before the Council and asked two questions: 1) When one source generates a disproportionate amount of activity does that pattern warrant review, and 2) is the process functioning as intended; stated that the discussion that evening was not about legitimate safety concerns but about ensuring that the City's complaint process cannot be abused; stated that the complaint process is only effective when the community has confidence that it is fair, objective, and cannot be weaponized against its residents; reported that they have repeatedly had someone go onto their property or adjacent to it to photograph their home, she approached the individual only once during the repeated times to ask why he kept taking photos of their home when they were already in direct communication with the City, and stated he became hostile with her and called her names; said he told her several times he would see it through to the end and he had nothing but time and money; stated that the encounter left her deeply shaken so her husband insisted she file a police report so it would be documented; stated that she submitted a picture of the police report and a photo of him taken in front of their property that day; stated that it is not about her personal experience, but it does illustrate why the proposed bona fide complainant and good faith provisions are needed and important; stressed that complaint driven enforcement should focus on neighbors who are genuinely affected and if there are legitimate public safety concerns; voiced support for the ADR process; asked, as they finalize the ordinance, that they consider those two things.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one else online and 19 eComments: two with no position listed, two neutral, 14 in support, and one opposed.

Laura MacMorran stated that she agreed with most of the recommendations but felt the Engineering recommendations on corners need three factors when considering sight lines: height, speed, and distance; said code to code comparison is not enough and used an example of the right of way street that she grew up on and the right of way street she is currently living on; noted that they were both 60 feet wide but that her parkway growing up was larger than what she has now; noted that the inches matter since they measure from on top of a curb and that cars are lower to the ground when on the street; stated that she would like 25 feet in length and 36 at corners; reported that she has complained to Code Enforcement and does not get resolution; hoped that the City would take a proactive approach when it comes to certain safety concerns instead of always putting the burden

on the citizen; stated that Code Enforcement should act when something is in plain sight, otherwise it is presumed acceptable by the public.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Hai Tran voiced support for the bona fide complainant requirement; stated that several complaints was actually closer to more than 100 complaints about hedge heights; opined that a single individual has been submitting the complaints and has been taking pictures of all the neighbors' hedges; said it is easy to file a complaint online; stated that he supported the ADR process recommendation and explained the unique layout of the front unit where he lives as an example of why the process is needed; stated he would be happy to pay for a filing fee so the City could recover costs; suggested that as part of the application the applicant could submit neighbor input or statements of support so no hearing would be needed; asked the Council to direct staff to review the current cases in enforcement and re-evaluate whether the original complaints meet the bona fide complaint requirement.

Councilmember Behrendt commented that the concern of the ADR process is it may create an adversarial process with neighbors; stated that what they are trying to do with the bona fide neighbor requirement is to avoid needing the ADR process; noted that if rules are followed regarding heights and there are no other safety issues, then it would require a neighbor to make a complaint; said that is the reasonable balanced compromise they were trying to reach and should resolve his issue; noted that the potential problem of adding the ADR would be staff time and the cost recovery might be \$1,000.

Hai Tran responded that it should be up to the homeowner to decide and that providing the path for the homeowner and giving them the option is important.

Councilmember Behrendt thanked him for recognizing that the City would not subsidize the effort; stressed that the process would be very detailed; asked if Mr. Tran would be okay with keeping it at a good faith requirement of 42/6 and shelve the ADR for now and if it becomes an issue, they could reserve it later.

Hai Tran stated that he wasn't suggesting a hearing, he was suggesting including statements of support from the neighbors in the application.

Councilmember Behrendt noted that they are trying to make a balanced decision but were reluctant to proceed with the ADR process.

Mayor Light said he misstated his intent with the ADR; clarified that if the City were to go with a variance process, then an ADR would be a chance for others to opine on it, but if the City goes by objective standards, then there is no need for an ADR.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Rick Cortina commented that his neighbor located on the back edge of his property has

vegetation that is over 40 feet; spoke of another neighbor building a new home and stated that they recently planted 85 Ficus trees along the fence line; noted that they would grow to over 40 feet and they have submitted complaints to the City but nothing has been done; asked how do they get the City's attention, noted that it has gone to the Building Department.

Mayor Light voiced concern about the unresponsiveness from Access Redondo Beach submissions or missed responses but stated it is not part of that evening's hearing.

Rick Cortina stated that he did not use Access Redondo Beach for his complaint but actually emailed it in and hand delivered it; asked if the standards would be retroactive.

Councilmember Obagi responded that the City is not changing the standard and it will remain at six feet.

Rick Cortina stated that his neighbor has hedges that are 30 to 40 feet and over the power poles by at least 10 feet.

Councilmember Obagi said his understanding is that the City currently has a pause on enforcement while they work through the revision and stated that, once the revision is finalized and the standards are set, he can file his complaint; suggested that if he does not receive a response from Code Enforcement, he could email his Councilmember.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Motion by Councilmember Behrendt to direct staff, including the City Attorney's Office, to pursue a revised Hedge Ordinance that follows the recommendations he and Councilmember Obagi made that evening with two changes: 1) not include 8B, and 2) taking out the ADR, and, if needed, to appoint Councilmember Obagi and himself to work on a formal subcommittee with the City Attorney's Office to go through the revision over the next week or so, and to include the height definition to address above and below grade properties to accomplish the same intent as the 42 inch viewing and six feet on the side.

Councilmember Obagi requested a friendly amendment to reincorporate the five-by-five HOV but at a 36-inch maximum height.

Councilmember Behrendt stated he is agreeable to that friendly amendment as long as the City Manager or other staff does not feel that would be an issue.

Councilmember Obagi provided his reasons for the height, stating that 36 inches is the height standard for corner lots and should be the same standard for driveways which are similar in nature.

Councilmember Behrendt voiced concern that 36 inches would be low and that they already have something in place that prevents sight restrictions.

Councilmember Waller supported Councilmember Obagi's friendly amendment.

Councilmember Behrendt asked City Attorney Ford what the current statute said about driveways and restrictions on hedges.

City Attorney Ford responded that there is nothing specific to driveways, it would just be the 42 inches in the front.

Councilmember Obagi explained that he envisioned the 36-inch height limit being directed towards new construction in the five-by-five HVO and it would just get the City progressively towards a more visible environment.

Councilmember Behrendt supported it if there were no unintended consequences.

City Manager Witzansky stated that staff could assess the potential impacts of the additional six inches on existing structures and report back to the Council at the time of the Ordinance discussion; commented that he doesn't get a sense that 36 to 42 will be a meaningful difference for the City in regard to HVOs from staff's perspective.

Councilmember Obagi asked if staff does think it will make a big difference and lead to a bunch of complaints could the City grandfather in existing structures and hedges at the current height.

Discussion followed.

Councilmember Obagi seconded the motion.

City Manager Witzansky noted that the City Attorney's Office did a lot of work on the prospective definitions of fence or wall, hedge height, vegetation; asked the Council if they had any general sentiment or feedback on those definitions as drafted.

Discussion followed that they need to be able to be consistent and enforceable and guidance would need to be given.

Councilmember Waller offered a friendly amendment to include language about mature hedges or progressive pruning for them so that it is not so aggressive.

Councilmember Behrendt commented that he didn't see an issue with that and preferred not to open up a new category and create a loophole for people to use; suggested that if there are issues with it they can revisit it at a later time.

Councilmember Waller said if the ADR is included it would cover that situation.

Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt both stated that the ADR is not included in their recommendations but could be revisited later if needed.

Mayor Light confirmed that they had a motion and a second on the floor.

City Manager Witzansky stated that, with the new penalty definitions, the City will have some discretion on how they address compliance; noted their intention is not to force the death of hedges and they would make efforts to work towards compliance and preserve vegetation; stated that he has heard a lot about Code Enforcement issues and response; reported that Code Enforcement has had issues in evaluating whether the complaint is a tree or a hedge but with the new definitions they should be more clear and have the ability to address the issues.

Mayor Light voiced concern about public safety issues not being brought to the attention of the City's Traffic Engineer but realized it was not on the agenda for that evening.

City Manager Witzansky responded that the initial complaint may have been evaluated as a series of trees and not a hedge.

Mayor Light argued it is a sight issue but did not want to belabor the issue.

Councilmember Obagi acknowledged the difficult task that Code Enforcement has and thanked them for what they do.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

Councilmember Behrendt acknowledged the work Cole Webb put into the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Behrendt, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, for an eight-minute break at 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0-1. Councilmember Castle was absent for the vote.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING FROM BREAK – 8:08 P.M.

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
Derek Kalish, Assistant City Clerk

N.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS

CONTACT: JANE CHUNG, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Witzansky introduced the item; thanked Councilmembers Behrendt and Kaluderovic for their work on the Crossing Guard Subcommittee and recognized Traffic Engineer Ryan Liu, Assistant to the City Manager Jane Chung, and Captain Brian Long for their work on the item; commented that the process they laid out will provide a clear objective annual review standard and lead to solid outcomes that will help sustain the improvements made with the recent actions on the program done in May.

Assistant to the City Manager Chung provided an overview of her presentation, noted that she will bring the Council up to speed on what has happened since May 5th, review the subcommittee recommended policy goals and objectives, and then conclude with the committee's recommendations; reported that, on May 5th, the City Council approved modifications to the City's Crossing Guard Program, which effectively reduced the number of locations from 27 to 18, and appropriated, through the RBPD's core budget, ongoing funding for the 18 staffed crossing guard locations; noted that the decision focused on equity, objectivity, and sustainability of the program; provided a slide that showed the 18 crossing guard locations and explained that they tethered 10 locations to schools and eight at-large locations; reported that, on June 18th, the City Council in conjunction with the School District issued a press statement announcing the program modifications and outlined the City's communication efforts; stated that several traffic calming and safety measures, for the crossing guards locations where they were either relocated or removed, would be completed before the start of the school year and any remaining installations would be done at the early part of the school year; stated that the City's website and social media would communicate updates regarding the traffic calming measures; provided the Subcommittee's policy goals and objectives as: serve as a guide for the administration of the program, implement a professional staff driven annual review process, prioritize long term engineering solutions, and provide a consistent criteria for objective and equitable evaluation of the program; reviewed each of the policy goals: noted that the Traffic Engineer and the Public Works Safety and Sustainability Commission (PWSSC) would be involved in the annual review process, that all community feedback would be centralized and routed to the City's Transportation Engineer and the City Manager's Office for consideration, that staff would monitor and evaluate the locations throughout the year in order to identify any needed adjustments, staff would focus on engineering solutions to reduce reliance on short term staffing, the City would collaborate with the School District with a focus on maintaining one crossing guard at each school location, they would continue to evaluate the eight at-large locations to determine if any adjustments are needed, staff would collect multimodal traffic data, prevailing conditions, and safety metrics to include in the annual report that staff presents to the PWSSC; stated that the last policy goal and objective would be to present the recommendations to the PWSSC each year in June or July, if the Commission agrees

with staff recommendations then the changes would be implemented the following school year but, if there is a disagreement or modification by the Commission to staff's recommendations then it would be brought to City Council for final determination; concluded her presentation with the Subcommittee's recommendation that the City Council approve the recommended policy goals and objectives for administration of the City's Crossing Guard Program.

City Manager Witzansky added that the policy goals and objectives are very descriptive in the Administrative Report; stated that the nine principles would be what staff would adhere to going forward; commented that he thinks it is a great program and professionalizes the process and sets the City up for a clear annual cycle of review.

Mayor Light clarified that the Council is not only approving the policy goals and objectives but the process as well.

City Manager Witzansky stated that the process is built into the policy goals and objectives.

Mayor Light recognized all who contributed to the effort; noted that the item had been debated for a long time and at some point seemed more like a political process of promises made during elections; opined that the process they have come up with turns it into a more objective process that has guardrails to make sure decisions are based on sound logic; supported the engagement of the PWSSC and supported the recommendations.

Councilmember Waller said if RBUSD came to them and asked if they could relocate one of the site based crossing guards would they have the flexibility to do that.

City Manager Witzansky responded that they envision that each year there will be consultations with the on-site administration and then District officials, regarding the school based sites, to determine where they would like to see the school site crossing guard placed; said that relocation around the districts is something they would work with but the bigger issue would be if RBUSD suddenly suggested that a school no longer needed a crossing guard; stated that one of the primary principles of the policy is that each of the ten sites has a crossing guard that is responsive to the community; stated that the eight at-large locations is where the City has more discretion and will have more review; said he can't foresee a school requesting not to have a crossing guard but if it happens they could consider it.

Councilmember Kaluderovic reiterated that the program has not be evaluated in its entirety before and that the decisions to put crossing guards at individual locations were made one by one over many decades and never reevaluated since; said that the responsive review program is needed so the City can change with the community as demographics change; spoke about the PWSSC giving an added layer for the community to participate; stated, as they reviewed the intersections, they reviewed the traffic patterns and behavior of those using the intersections and their intent was to make them safe all

the time and not just when kids are crossing through enforcement and changes in infrastructure; felt the process would give them answers for the community when they have requests for crossing guards.

Motion by Councilmember Behrendt, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, to approve the subcommittee's recommended policy goals and objectives for administration of the City's Crossing Guard Program as provided for in item N.2's Administrative Report.

Mayor Light invited public comment.

Braley Klatt stated that it was mentioned that they wanted safety for everybody and felt that traffic and the e-Bike situation was being overlooked; stated that she is almost hit twice a week when she walks her 70 lb. husky; spoke of people not stopping at stop signs and e-Bikes needing license plates so they can be reported; said she is most frustrated about Ford and Aviation and explained that a crossing guard was taken away even with a lot of pushback; voiced concern at Jefferson at Harkness and Morgan and said the Jefferson crossing guard showed up all the time, so it was not a staffing issue; asked for a call-to-action to reassess the Ford and Aviation site and give them Chris back at Morgan and Harkness; reported that the three stop intersection is a safety issue because, due to the mesh lining installed on the fence, one of the stop signs is not visible so the crossing guard has had to get into the street to stop traffic and also reprimand people that don't belong near the kids; reiterated that she would like Ford and Aviation and Harness and Morgan Lane readdressed.

Councilmember Castle noted that the schools were putting up black mesh on school fences; asked Braley Klatt where the black mesh fence was that she was referring to.

Braley Klatt responded that it is at Harkness and Morgan.

City Manager Witzansky reported that it is something staff is addressing with the School District; stated that Traffic Engineer Liu has had conversations with the CEO and they have the same concerns of it causing problems at various intersections.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Wayne Craig asked why they are not talking about cost sharing with the School District; spoke of the cost of crossing guards and pointed out that the City has other areas that need funding; stated that the School District has a lot of money and they have money available for crossing guards; stated that the School District and the City are separate entities and the City needs to reexamine that function at some point.

Mayor Light stated that they had conversations with the School District and they did not come to fruition on it; wanted everyone to understand that they did explore that avenue.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online and one eComment with no position. Councilmember Obagi wanted to address the comment about Aviation and Ford; stated

he was a proponent of that intersection because about 20 kids came and spoke at the Council meeting regarding their need for a crossing guard at Aviation and Ford; explained that thousands of cars drive at 35 MPH + on Aviation and there have been repeated accidents at that location so he was a champion for those kids; stated that if there is proof that another intersection is more dangerous he would like to see it; suggested that the City could incorporate data on accidents in future analysis.

Mayor Light commented that the City would now have a process to adjudicate it versus an ad hoc City Council.

City Manager Witzansky agreed with the Mayor; added that the new process will allow staff to collect the appropriate data and they can work in accident history; noted that the process will allow the City to evaluate actions and behaviors of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists after the traffic calming measure are implemented; stated that the whole goal is sustainable 24/7 traffic safety at all locations using engineering solutions, and not time resource such as crossing guards; stated that each year they will focus on improvements, evaluate behaviors, and traffic patterns to determine where they should place value on future locations; commented that the more they can depoliticize it the more benefit for everybody.

Councilmember Kaluderovic pointed out that she had heard from Jefferson parents that not all the kids that spoke at the Council meeting were crossing the street but were there in support of their friends; stated that the locations are not stagnant and they would be reviewing them every year.

Mayor Light called the vote.

Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

N.3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BALLOT TEXT AND QUESTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE VOTERS FOR THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER 3, 2026 LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XXVII OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR PROPOSED MAJOR CHANGES IN ALLOWABLE LAND USE, DETERMINE WHO SUBMITS ARGUMENT FOR, AND BALLOT LETTER DESIGNATIONS, AND ELECTION OR MEASURE RELATED ITEMS

CONTACT: MARC WIENER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK
JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

Community Development Director Wiener provided the schedule for the General Plan update adoption process:

- August 4, 2026 – Staff will bring the Resolution and Ordinances to the City Council for the adoption of the updated Land Use Element (LUE) and the zoning

ordinances to implement those changes.

- August 11, 2026 – Staff will bring back a second reading of the ordinance to adopt it.
- August 18, 2026 – Staff will bring the remaining portions of the General Plan to the City Council, which is outside the scope of Article 27; stated that the goal is to bring those for adoption in September or October.

Community Development Director Wiener noted that one of the items Council received in their packet that evening was the text amendments that would be placed on the ballot; turned the floor over to City Clerk Manzano.

City Clerk Manzano provided a slide with the ballot question; stated what staff need for August 4th would be direction regarding the proposed question and the ballot text; said she needed to make sure the question and text is what the Council wants for the August 4th election.

City Manager Witzansky stated that changes were based on suggestions by Craig Steele, who is the City's outside election expert.

City Clerk Manzano detailed out the changes that were made to the question based on the Blue Folder item; reported that there were 66 words and they could go up to 75 words; stated that she received some suggestions from Councilmember Obagi regarding the ballot letter designation and his first choice was ART; reported calling the County, who said they would consider it, but said a second choice is needed and she was given AR and AAC; stated the City needs to give the County three choices.

Mayor Light asked if the County was going to have a special election as well.

City Clerk Manzano responded no, they are just having the General Municipal Election but the City is asking the County to include the City's measure; asked who would be drafting the arguments in favor and noted that it could not exceed 300 words and would be due on August 14th.

Councilmember Obagi stated that he and Councilmember Behrendt would be drafting the argument for and would eventually solicit signatures.

City Clerk Manzano stated on August 5th, once the Resolutions are adopted on August 4th, staff will provide the argument booklet to the Councilmembers that will be drafting the arguments in favor; noted that the argument booklet would include all the forms from the County that need to be filled out and the City Attorney will be asked to provide the impartial analysis, which is due on August 14th.

Mayor Light said he would go with questions on what was presented and then walk through each of the questions and get answers from the Council; asked if there were any

questions on number 1.

Councilmember Waller asked if the rezoning of portions of Alta Vista and Lincoln Elementary properties needed to be part of the wording on the ballot measure.

Community Development Director said it was a good question, and he made a note to speak to Planning Manager Sean Scully when he was back in the office; stated he wasn't sure if it needed to be included as part of the ballot measure.

Mayor Light asked if they don't approve it now when do they approve it.

City Manager Witzansky said if it was not essential as it relates to the economic development items, they will exclude it.

Discussion followed that it was not subject to Article 27, it was not related to development, so it did not need to be part of the ballot text.

Councilmember Waller said that the rewording was much better, he had also come up with a rewording, but the new wording had everything covered.

Councilmember Behrendt asked for the approved ballot question to be put on the screen; asked everyone to read through it; stated it looked fine to him.

Councilmember Obagi asked if they should mention new floor area ratio, height limit caps; stated it is a salient aspect of what is changing.

Councilmember Waller reported that he also had height limit mentioned in his wording, so he supported adding it.

Discussion followed regarding the wording; word smithed to new floor area ratio caps, height limits, and rooftop dining.

Councilmember Obagi asked about changing schools from P PRO to PSF.

Discussion followed that it is not part of Article 27; Councilmember Behrendt confirmed the ballot question was good.

Councilmember Behrendt asked to go through the ballot measure text.

City Clerk Manzano explained that the ballot text will be the exhibit for the Resolution, it will go on the City's website, the impartial analysis will have comments, and there will be a link for the full ballot measure text.

Mayor Light commented that he didn't think it was ready, but he did not want to wordsmith it that evening.

Councilmember Behrendt scrolled through the pages.

Community Development Director Wiener explained that there were text changes to the code amendments and the General Plan amendment; noted that there was a summary of each of the changes prior to it being displayed; said that some of the amendments were made in November 2024, there were some other amendments within those that did not fall under the Housing Element, and the other set of amendments will come from the adoption on August 4th.

Councilmember Behrendt asked to go to page 44 of 46; asked if they would be taking out school updates based on their discussion that evening.

Staff responded that they believe so.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if it was all accurate and if it is what they approved.

Community Development Director Wiener stated that the first half of it was approved by the City Council in November 2024 and the phase 2 portion will be adopted on August 4th; noted that it is consistent with all the items that staff has presented to the City Council over numerous meetings.

Councilmember Behrendt asked if everything has been reviewed by Director Wiener and his staff and re-reviewed to ensure it captured what the Council approved.

Community Development Director Wiener replied yes.

Councilmember Behrendt asked Director Wiener if everything necessary, required, and compliant was included in order for the ballot exercise to be effective.

Community Development Director Wiener noted that they would be taking out the School District portion as discussed; noted that what they are reviewing is a draft so the Council is not adopting the Resolution that evening, and that staff was sharing it in advance to have the discussion on it; stated that it does include the development standards for the AACAP that are associated with the increase in FAR and that it makes sense to have it as a consolidated item.

City Manager Witzansky said they are erroring on the side of over disclosure that evening, some of the items could be excluded, but they did not want to risk missing anything critical.

Mayor Light stated his understanding was that phase 1 had been done with the Housing Element.

Community Development Director Wiener stated that there were some other amendments that staff made at that time related to housing in case they would be precluded from doing it at a later date, which included changing the mixed-use zone along Artesia to commercial and down zoning some of the residential.

Mayor Light agreed but stated those shouldn't be in the Resolution because it will confuse voters.

Community Development Director Wiener stated that it's been adopted by the Council, but it has not been voted on so it needs to be.

Mayor Light argued that calling it phase 1 and phase 2 would be confusing to the voters.

City Manager Witzansky suggested they just discuss it as actions that took place on November 5th and 12th subject to Article 27.

More discussion followed.

Mayor Light supported describing as a period piece and not phase 1 and phase 2.

City Manager Witzansky stated staff would refresh the titles.

Councilmember Castle noted the length of the document; stated he spoke to one of his district members, and they asked if there was a way to have a Table of Contents so that people could find their neighborhood and what would impact them more quickly.

Community Development Director Wiener stated they could do that.

Mayor Light pointed out that there would be an Article 27 analysis that will go into more detail and that would hopefully contain a Table of Contents; stressed that the important thing is that people know what they are voting on and not focus on the dates.

City Manager Witzansky commented that typically the action taken in the ballot is supposed to reflect the administrative action of the City Council; noted that they are embedding resolutions and that tends to provide a description of events so staff needs to work on phrasing that doesn't elicit the wrong meaning but be more self-explanatory.

Mayor Light moved onto number 2, letter designations; stated that the County will consider ART but if a County thing overrides it then they go to AR.

Councilmember Obagi stated he does not have a preference between the second (AR) or third choice (AAC).

The rest of the Council did not have a preference either.

Mayor Light moved onto number 3; stated that Councilmembers Obagi and Behrendt proposed drafting the arguments in favor; said it would be more powerful if the whole Council signs off on it but if needed he could sign off.

Councilmember Kaluderovic reported that she would not be there for the sign off.

Discussion followed regarding the sign off day and if it could be done earlier.

City Clerk Manzano stated she would need the form filled out, with the 300-word statement, at 5:30 on August 14th but she would give the form to Councilmember Obagi on August 5th.

Discussion followed regarding the ability to send a signature via email; Mayor Light noted that he could be the backup.

City Clerk Manzano said she would check with the County to confirm.

City Manager Witzansky said all they needed at that point was staff direction from the Council; stated that they heard the input that evening and they will accommodate; announced that their action items would be on the 4th and that evening was a conversation.

Community Development Director Wiener confirmed that he understood the input.

Mayor Light invited public comment.

Wayne Craig, District 1, suggested that they use GP for General Plan or RGP for Redondo General Plan as the letter designations; agreed that the language was confusing before but what they presented that evening was much better; agreed with the Mayor that they need to tell people what they are voting for; implied that the public would not read a 46 page attachment so they need to make it easier for people to find what they are looking for; suggested having something on the City's website with the ability to locate topics of interest; spoke of people asking him what things mean and how to navigate through the 46 page document; stressed that they need to make it easier for people to find things; recommended they call it General Plan or Redondo General Plan.

Assistant City Clerk Kalish reported no one online.

Councilmember Obagi said he is open to GP, but ART has some identification with it in North Redondo; agreed with Mr. Craig's point about the 46-page document; recalled that for Measure FP the City provided a "Frequently Asked Questions" on the City website and asked the City Manager if they could do the same for this situation.

City Manager Witzansky responded that they could as long as it is factual and not purposely persuasive information.

Mayor Light reminded them that each voter will be mailed an Article 27 analysis that complies with Article 27.

City Clerk Manzano reported that the City does not have to mail the texts to the voters; noted that that changed from the charter amendment but that the City Clerk's Office could provide them access to get it or if they call the City Clerk's Office to get a hard copy.

Councilmember Obagi suggested putting a QR code on the information so they could see the whole thing.

City Clerk Manzano said it could be done but she would need to get a cost for a postcard.

Mayor Light questioned the interpretation of the recent charter change and said he will take a look at it; stated that they were pretty specific in Article 27 about mailing it to every voter; asked the City Manager if they had enough to move forward.

City Manager Witzansky replied that they did and they will endeavor to make it as clear as possible and work to provide additional factual informational items after the resolution is hopefully passed and adopted on the 4th.

O. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

City Manager Witzansky mentioned the ribbon cutting at 3:00 p.m. next week and that there would be no Council meeting the following Tuesday; reported that the next Council meeting would be on the 4th and said they can safely adjourn to a 4:30 p.m. Closed Session rather than 4:00 p.m.; noted that they would have four discussion items on the 4th.

P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS - None

Q. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF

Councilmember Kaluderovic reported that she would be absent for the first two meetings in August.

R. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

**R.1. 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: Cornelia Blakely v. City of Redondo Beach, and Does 1 through 25, inclusive
Case Number: 24TRCV02937**

R.2. 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:

Claudia Siracusa v. City of Redondo Beach, a public entity, et al.

Case Number: 26TRCV00905

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

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

**Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Elizabeth Hause, Waterfront & Community Services Director
Katherine Buck, Waterfront & Economic Development Manager
Jon Goetz, Redwood Public Law**

PROPERTY:

**100 International Boardwalk, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
130 International Boardwalk, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(a portion of APN: 7505-002-932)**

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Jeff Jones, Quality Seafood, Inc.

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Lease Status, Price, and Terms

- R.4. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.**

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

**Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Elizabeth Hause, Waterfront & Community Services Director
Katherine Buck, Waterfront & Economic Development Manager**

PROPERTY:

**Basin 3 Slips, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(a portion of APN: 7505-002-932)**

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Various Tenants

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Price

- S. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – None**

- T. ADJOURNMENT – 9:09 P.M.**

Motion by Councilmember Waller, seconded by Councilmember Castle, to adjourn the meeting to 4:30 Closed Session on August 4, 2026.

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, August 4, 2026, in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chamber, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

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