

CALL TO ORDER

A Virtual Special Meeting of the Redondo Beach Disaster Council was called to order by Vice Chair Joe Hoefgen at 3:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Vice Chair Hoefgen, Witzansky, Kauffman, Semaan, Stratton; Gausche-Hill, Keller, Bakaly, Knoll, Elder, Ahn (departed at 4:04 p.m.), Sharifi, Alderson, Sanford, McKenzie, Silverstrom, Ketchum

Members Absent: Chair Brand, Metzger

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk
Michael Webb, City Attorney
Vickie Kroneberger, Chief Deputy City Clerk

SALUTE TO FLAG

A. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

The Disaster Council approved the order of the agenda, by consensus, without objection.

B. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACKUP MATERIAL - None

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

C.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE REDONDO BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL REGULAR OF APRIL 23, 2020.

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

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

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

City Clerk Eleanor Manzano announced there were no public comments received on the Consent Calendar.

The Disaster Council approved the Consent Calendar, by consensus, without objection.

D. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - NONE

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City Clerk Manzano announced there were no public comment received under Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

F.1. OVERVIEW OF THE DISASTER COUNCIL AND UPDATED CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE DISASTER COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2020

Vice Chair Hoefgen welcomed new Members Silverstrom and Ketchum; addressed the Disaster Council's first meeting on April 9, 2020; provided an update on the number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths County-wide and City-wide; reported all of the closures in place two weeks ago remain in effect; addressed requirements for face coverings and social distance and noted the City's orders mostly mirror the County's orders.

Member Dr. Stratton reported currently, the City continues in the response phase but noted it is time to start thinking seriously about the recovery phase; stated hospitals in the County are stabilized; addressed capacities; indicated the economic costs are becoming onerous for everyone and believed consideration should be given to start opening up parks, beaches, the pier, using public health messaging to continue social distancing and safety protocols.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill shared Los Angeles County data being tracked including the number of acute-care beds available, the burden of COVID-19, ICU beds and capacity and availability of ventilators. She agreed with Member Dr. Stratton in terms of starting to open for economic recovery but with an eye on public safety; noted concerns about a secondary spike and supported a phased-in approach to recovery.

Member Bakaly reported City Council is reviewing a draft recover plan and deferred to Dr. William Kim for comments.

Dr. William Kim addressed hospital admissions and deaths noting a small drop in the admissions rate; opined that it would be best to stay within the County's and State's recommendations in terms of opening businesses back up; noted the need to caution and care and believed the City should continue doing what it is doing until there is a greater reduction in numbers.

In response to Member Ketchum's question regarding the impacts of sheltering in place, on domestic abuse, Member Dr. Gausche-Hill reported she has no hard figures but has heard that it has increased.

Member Police Chief Kauffman reported the Police Department has no data showing a large increase in domestic violence and noted that overall, there is a 25-30% decrease in Part 1 crimes and lately, traffic and calls for service have increased.

Member Asst. Director Witzansky asked about comparisons in hospital occupancy levels now and two weeks ago and asked about the appropriateness of continuing restrictions on specific at-risk populations. Member Dr. Gausche-Hill reported seeing a flattening of the curve but part of the problem with the data on hospitalization rates is that the patients stay in the hospital for a long time adding that the rate will increase slightly, over time, but it is not accelerating in such a way that hospitals will not get overwhelmed. She stated there is a skilled nursing facility in Costa Mesa with regional access so if hospitals cannot get patients repatriated back to their skill nursing facility because of COVID-19, they can be Fairview.

In terms of targeting restrictions to high-risk populations, Dr. Kim reported COVID-19 is not targeting specific age groups but older individuals with underlying health problems seem to be

more at-risk than younger individuals. However, younger individuals could still spread the disease.

Member Dr. Keller reported school is still in session through distance learning; commended teachers for stepping up to the challenge and noted teachers are anxious to get back to school, at the appropriate time.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill added that, anecdotally, in other cities, it is reported that domestic violence is down.

Vice Chair Hoefgen requested copies of Member Dr. Gausche-Hill's slides to make them part of the official record.

The Disaster Council received and filed materials presented by Member Dr. Gausche-Hill, by consensus, without objection.

Member Silverstrom reported compliance has been good, especially with the presence of Law Enforcement; stated without the presence of Law Enforcement, individuals have been "herding" on the beaches; noted beach closures are a public health decision and the City will continue existing public health orders at least until May 15th; stressed they are working on the recovery phase, including limited access where physical distancing will be required and specific activities such as walking and running will be allowed. She added boardwalks and piers will remain closed, no programming, permitting or athletic events will be allowed and addressed limited access to parking lots specific vicinities. Member Silverstrom added they do not anticipate full opening of facilities until 2021.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no public comments received regarding this item.

Member Ketchum reported having about 5,000 customers in recreational boating and marines as well as self-storage, which are still open businesses. He believed there is increased pressure and frustration in terms of prohibitions; expressed concerns with the negative connotations of using language such as "restrictions" and the potential for civil unrest and disobedience and suggested trying to be positive in the language used.

F.2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT BEACH CITIES COVID-19 STRATEGIC RECOVERY PLAN DATED APRIL 17, 2020

Vice Chair Hoefgen commended Member Bakaly and his staff, from the Beach Cities Health District for their help; addressed discussions with them and neighboring cities; noted the importance of working collaboratively and referenced the draft Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan recently presented to the City Council for its review.

Member Bakaly presented details of the draft Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan; addressed the importance of a regional approach and creation of a dashboard for tracking key metrics; discussed the various phases and thresholds for action; noted dates are estimates; confirmed the ability to handle surges and reported a stage for reopening is the understanding that it may be necessary to return to earlier phases if there is a surge. He noted the most important action is to prevent a second wave; addressed processes that need to be in place before relaxing restrictions; discussed addressing at-risk, vulnerable populations; reported working with various Chambers to engage them in developing strategies for opening businesses and spoke about the need for additional input and next steps.

Member Asst. Director Witzansky spoke about opening City public areas and the need to work with Member Silverstrom and her department in the opening of recreational facilities and asked if May 15th is a realistic deadline for reopening facilities.

Member Silverstrom reported the Department of Public Health is working on dividing their recovery plan into five factions, based upon areas of business; added they hope to finalize a plan on Friday and hope to release it to the County and cities. She stated the Public Health Officer is aware of the public discontent with the restrictions on people's movements.

Member Asst. Director Witzansky noted the sooner good news gets to the community, the better.

Member Silverstrom added that in the areas where there has been little Law Enforcement presence, the activities observed have not been cognizant of the distancing mandates and people are not doing what they should be doing and reiterated the importance of a phased approach.

Member Ahn left the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Member Asst. Director Witzansky stated that while there are bad actors out there, it is not indicative of what the broader citizenry is doing in terms of following the rules.

Member Public Works Director Ted Semaan referenced an assumption in the Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan that 96% of Los Angeles County will be exposed; asked how that will impact the recovery phase and whether there are benefits to doing mass testing.

Member Bakaly stated the plan used projections and modeling from one week ago; acknowledged they may have changed; reported that is why it uses conservative timing for recovery and addressed the availability and importance of testing.

Member Silverstrom clarified her comments regarding full opening of facilities by 2021 in terms of returning to normal operations and noted there is a large spectrum of activities that will be slowly phased in.

Member Ketchum referenced comments about all Beach Cities working together but expressed concerns that one may want to do something another city does not.

Member Bakaly explained they are suggesting coordination with other cities, with the understanding that cities can act independently.

Member Ketchum spoke about impacts to businesses, psychological impacts, a potential collapse of society and challenges in terms of coordinating with other cities. He addressed consumer confidence and the importance of positive messaging and communication in a successful recovery. He discussed the need for the City to help businesses by developing a positive uniform posting.

City Attorney Michael Webb felt the Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan is thoughtful and prudently phased but feared it will never come to fruition because the public will not allow it; noted increasing acts of civil disobedience and asked about the level of enforcement that will be needed for compliance. He addressed the governor's order relative to at-risk individuals staying home; noted data shows it is much more broad-based and asked

about the possibility of isolating those with chronic conditions and creatively loosening restrictions for people who are not high-risk.

City Clerk Manzano read email comments received from the public on this item from:

Mark Hanson, King Harbor Boater, noting that in the Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan, under the recovery phase, the recovery continuum includes mid-July to late-November but the thresholds for actions include safe vaccines, fall to spring and do not align. Additionally, the Federal Taskforce has been relaying a vaccine timeframe of 1 year to 1½ years and Mr. Hanson requested clarification of the apparent lack of alignment.

Sheila Lamb referenced comments from Member Ketchum; requested input from Law Enforcement and County Beaches and asked how the City will engage the community in a positive way to support from the public.

Joan Irvine reported reading about upcoming protests of beach closures and asked what the Redondo Beach Police Department is planning to address them.

Member Bakaly explained the timing projected in the Beach Cities COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan noted it is a range/goal; noted the need to engage the business sectors and reported the plan provides a framework for consideration. He added that any strategy developed needs to be focused on the at-risk population.

Member Police Chief Kauffman reported the department is placing close attention to beaches; noted they have reached out to some of the protest organizers; stated they will run the balance of enforcement, including protecting people's First-Amendment rights and encouraged the public to call the Department with questions or concerns.

Member McKenzie asked about strategies for addressing those experiencing domestic violence and/or abuse and Member Police Chief Kauffman noted differences in every city but reported in Redondo Beach, domestic violence cases resulting in an assault in April, were three and three in May and stated the number of domestic-violence related calls have decreased. He added the Department has domestic violence advocates that are still available and will respond to anyone in need of help.

F.3. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS

Member Asst. Director Witzansky provided projections in terms of deficits in the General Fund and decreases in TOT and sales taxes, addressed cuts and the utilization of reserves and expressed concerns that long-term, the City will need to restructure the way it conducts business.

Vice Chair Hoefgen added the City Charter requires that the City release a draft budget by May 16th and all City Departments are working on various scenarios to present a balanced budget to minimize impacts to services.

Member Alderson discussed the testing site at the Galleria; reported they are still in a "zero-revenue" situation; stated they have reached out to all of their tenants who are looking forward to reopening their businesses but feared that as the restrictions continue, they will begin losing tenants. He referenced an application for repositioning the Galleria and reported those design efforts remain robust.

Member Knoll agreed with previous speakers; noted decreases in revenue by restaurants and zero revenue by retailers; believed there are ways to have a safe environment while conducting business and stressed the need to work together to make sure proper guidance is in place. He expressed concerns for small businesses and agreed with the need for clear and positive communication.

Member Sanford referenced State and Federal loans; reported a lot of the money has gone to large businesses and chains and suggested actions by the City that could help including the possibility of relaxing parking restrictions and considering creative ways for additional spaces for restaurants to maintain social distancing.

Member Sharifi addressed business closures; discussed uncertainties expressed by their clients; reported no one has reported receiving funding and asked about the possibility of opening the Library with limited hours or activities (i.e. to check out books).

Library Director Susan Anderson discussed access to the Library's digital resources and reported they are looking into a phased recovery plan with the possibility of opening up other services.

Member Knoll discussed SBA loans, the EIBL loan and the PPP program; encouraged businesses to apply and announced an upcoming survey for businesses.

City Clerk Manzano read an email from Mel Samples asking about forecasts, in the immediate- and long-terms, for losses in TOT and lease payments.

Member Asst. Director Witzansky stated this year (ending June 30th), the projected loss in TOT revenue is a little over \$4 million and \$4.5 million for next fiscal year and addressed property tax revenues and lease payments.

Member Elder agreed with Member Asst. Director Witzansky; reported she is working to understand increases in demand, now that the weather is nicer and offered to continue monitoring the situation and provide updates to the Disaster Council.

Member Silverstrom reported the County budget will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 2020.

F.4. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE REDONDO BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL

Vice Chair Hoefgen reported another meeting has not been scheduled yet, but Members will be notified as the City continues to monitor the situation and calls for another meeting of the Disaster Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The Disaster Council meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m., by consensus, without objection.