

CALL TO ORDER

A Virtual Special Meeting of the Redondo Beach Disaster Council was called to order by Chair Brand at 3:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Brand, Vice Chair Hoefgen, Witzansky, Semaan, Knoll, Elder, Sharifi (arrived at 3:16 p.m.), Alderson, Sanford, Silverstrom, Ketchum (arrived at 3:12 p.m.), Metzger, Gausche-Hill (arrived at 3:09 p.m.), McKenzie, Bakaly (arrived at 3:04 p.m.), Ahn (arrived at 3:35 p.m.)

Members Absent: Stratton, Keller, Kauffman

Officials Present: Michael Webb, City Attorney
Brandy Forbes, Community Development Director
Jon Naylor, Redondo Beach Police Department Captain
Vickie Kroneberger, Chief Deputy City Clerk

SALUTE TO FLAG

A. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Member Knoll, seconded by Member McKenzie, to approve the Order of the Agenda, as presented. Motion carried, by consensus, without objection.

B. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACKUP MATERIAL - NONE

B.1 For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the Disaster Council Meeting

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

C.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE REDONDO BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 15, 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

C.3. APPROVE THE FOLLOWG DISASTER COUNCIL MINUTES:

A. May 27, 2020, Special Meeting

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no communications from the public on this item.

Motion by Member Elder, seconded by Member Bakaly, to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion carried, by roll call vote, with Members Stratton, Keller, Kauffman, Sharifi, Ketchum, Gausche-Hill and Ahn, absent.

D. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - NONE

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no eComments or public comments on this item.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

F.1. SUMMARY OF CITY EMERGENCY ORDERS AND UPDATED CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE DISASTER COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 27, 2020

Vice Chair Hoefgen discussed the City's response to the COVID-19 health crisis in terms of City operations; addressed the City's Emergency Order in response to the County-wide closure of beaches and piers; reported various facilities have reopened effective July 6th; complimented the public for their adherence and compliance and listed continuing closures in City facilities. He presented L.A. County and City COVID-19 statistics; reported the City will be receiving over \$800,000 in CARES funding but the City is still in a reduction mode in terms of the budget.

Chair Brand addressed reclosures ordered by the State; reported on beach closures in the County and thanked the public for their continued compliance.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no eComments or public comments on this item.

F.2. STATUS OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS/CAPACITY AND COVID-19 TESTING EFFORTS

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill presented updates on hospital admissions/capacity and COVID-19 testing efforts; addressed the COVID-19 burden at hospitals and concerns regard ICU beds; noted there is still capacity in the system; discussed concerns regarding ventilators; reported admissions and discharges are increasing; displayed cases and mortality rates in comparison with other states and increases in cases among younger populations. Member Dr. Gausche-Hill stated everyone has a social responsibility and urged people not to take this lightly. In terms of treatments and vaccines, she reported there are positive developments and felt the City is in good shape.

In response to Member Sanford's question regarding the ability of businesses to open within the next three months, Member Dr. Gausche-Hill stated they are projecting that there will still be capacity in four weeks and are working closely with Public Health and hospitals to keep them open and help balance the tension between the health of the economy, public health and the capacity of the healthcare system.

Jacquelyn Sun, Senior Policy Analyst, Beach Cities Health District, presented updated data on that State of COVID-19 in the County and Beach Cities including average daily new cases; reported the County has reported more deaths; noted Beach Cities are doing relatively well compared to the County; discussed trends, by week and month, positivity rates, cases and hospitalizations.

Dr. William Kim addressed statistics for local hospitals; confirmed hospital capacity; reported COVID-19 is affecting a younger population, not requiring the use of ventilators, and urged the public to use face coverings and practice social distancing.

Chair Brand shared information from a recent Sanitation District Board meeting including an increase in COVID-19 sewage at inlets to two wastewater treatment plants; noted once the virus passes through the digestive system, it is inactive but the information is indicative of how much the virus is, within the community.

In response to Member Sanders's question, Ms. Sun confirmed the number of cases in Beach Cities compared to those in L.A. County.

In reply to Vice Chair Hoefgen question regarding the availability of tests, Member Bakaly addressed testing capacity at the property on Prospect and Beryl; reported L.A. County is working on revising the test-reservation system and plans are to continue testing through July or August.

Ms. Sun added that the County is urging people with providers and insurance to contact their providers, first; discussed hot spot areas; addressed the opening of new County testing sites and spoke about the need for education and testing priorities.

In reply to Member McKenzie's question, Ms. Sun discussed challenges with the accuracy of anti-body testing.

Member McKenzie asked about the rate of recurrence and Dr. Kim noted there are many platforms available for anti-body testing, but they do not have good specificity and sensitivity while some of the larger laboratories have excellent platforms. He added there has been no increase in recurrence, but research is still in the works.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill added the issue of reinfection is still not clear; reported as time goes, there will be a better understanding and noted challenges with anti-body testing. Currently, the best thing to do if experiencing symptoms, would be to get a PCR test. She discussed the types of tests including molecular (PCR) and the tests for anti-bodies and reportedly most everyone is doing PCR testing.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Kroneberger announced there were no eComments or public comments on this item.

F.3. STATUS OF COUNTY/CITY RECOVERY PLANNING EFFORTS

Member Semaan discussed working with the Riviera Village Association to help businesses with restrictions and helping restaurants expand into outdoor dining; addressed subsequent shut-down orders; reported receiving a waiver from the Coastal Commission to be able to expand into all parking lot areas and parklets and commented on the ability to use parkways and public rights-of-way areas for opportunities for businesses to participate.

Member McKenzie reported recently receiving the update to have increased space; stated she has visited some businesses in North Redondo that are creating additional spaces, outdoors and noted she will distribute information on how to obtain a temporary use permit. She added that businesses are becoming more creative in creating safe spaces to conduct business.

Director of Community Development Brandy Forbes addressed the temporary use permit process; noted City Council has chosen to waive related fees; reported development of an application packet for non-restaurant businesses including gyms and hair salons and indicated applicants can obtain additional information at planningredondo@redondo.org.

Member McKenzie asked for an explanation relative to why dining outdoors is safer than indoors, and Member Dr. Gausche-Hill reported it has to do with airflow, availability of space for physical distancing and higher temperatures and addressed the efficiency of plastic face shields.

Member Bakaly and Ms. Sun provided an update on the Safe in the South Bay Program in collaboration with Chambers of Commerce in Beach Cities. Additional information can be found at redondochamber.org.

Member Ketchum referenced uses that closed with access to outdoor relief; complemented City staff and leadership for leading the initiative and asked for clarification of the Governor's order.

Director of Community Development Forbes listed business sectors included in the Governor's most-recent orders. She added this Council made a difference in getting businesses up and running.

Member Sanford stated it will get worse before it gets better; discussed businesses that have had to close because of the lack of outdoor space and reported it is up to the City to disseminate the information.

Member Ketchum addressed businesses in distress; noted programs available at the beginning of the crisis are now gone; reported many companies have spent money repositioning themselves and opined it behooves the City to project how long the current shut-down will last.

Vice Chair Hoefgen understood the latest shutdown will be until further notice; until the numbers get better.

Member Witzansky stated it is indefinite in the order, but the target is the end of the month.

Dr. Kim indicated there is a list of affected Counties; noted if cases go up in a three-day cycle, it triggers a shut-down.

Director of Community Development Forbes stated L.A. County is included in the watchlist and explained the businesses she listed earlier where the businesses that were shut down, as of Monday, if your county is on a watchlist.

Discussion followed regarding concerns with the policy, understanding that although cases are going up, it does not necessarily mean everything should be shut down and the possibility of City Council considering sending a letter to the County and State urging them to consider all impacts of shut-downs on the community; not just health impacts.

Chair Brand indicated the item will be agendaized for consideration by City Council.

City Attorney Webb wondered whether Beach Cities would be on a watchlist if they were a County; proposed that treating a county as large as L.A. as a single entity is very different than

treating smaller counties and suggested asking them to break down the orders to not be county-specific.

Member Dr. Gausche-Hill agreed it is worth a shot and felt it makes sense to have more specificity relative to certain locations.

Chair Brand reported the County was considering dividing into hotspots, but the proposal was not approved.

Chair Brand invited public comments.

Peter Rockwood, small business owner, District 2, asked for an update on the moratorium on evictions for commercial tenants.

Vice Chair Hoefgen discussed actions by the City to put in place a moratorium on COVID-19 related evictions for residential and commercial tenants and reported that subsequently, the State took action that superseded the City's action and the City suspended the moratorium. Currently, the rules in place at the State and County levels are controlling the issue. He added the City, as a landlord, has received requests from tenants for deferments and forgiveness and is working with them on a case-by-case basis.

Member Silverstrom confirmed the County currently has an eviction moratorium in place through the end of August and urged those interested to contact DCBA@LACOUNTY.gov for both commercial and residential tenants.

City Attorney Webb added that the courts are handling limited matters, currently.

Member Ketchum discussed tenants who can afford to pay and are taking advantage of the moratorium not to, which is putting stress on landlords and noted the need to be careful in considering who will be impacted.

Member Semaan announced that those interested in pursuing sidewalk dining should email RedondoEngineering@redondo.org.

In reply to Member Witzansky's question regarding the latest projected mortality rate for COVID-19, Member Dr. Gausche-Hill reported it varies, significantly, by age and other factors.

Dr. Kim agreed it is not a simple answer as other factors include ethnicity, age and comorbidities.

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

Chair Brand noted meetings will be scheduled on an "as-needed" basis and thanked everyone for participating.

ADJOURNMENT

The Disaster Council meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m., by consensus, without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk