



MINUTES
Neighborhood Council Organization (INCO)
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021

A. ROLL CALL

At 7:02 p.m., 1st Vice-Chair Jack Villa called the online meeting to order (Chair Gleason was absent). A quorum of members was present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of April 7, 2021, online meeting.

Motion by Len Shulman, seconded by Paul Henke. Minutes were approved with a correction to the spelling of "Jon Huyke."

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS Public comments were received from:

Lauren Fontein - opening a new cannabis dispensary in the City

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Special Guest Speaker, Police Chief Jason Benites
RECOMMENDATION: Receive a verbal report on Chief Benites's vision, goals, and priorities for 2021, followed by Q&A

Chief Benites spoke on the transition to him being the new Chief and how the change has impacted the department. Stability is maintained in the organization due to the new chief already being in the organization. The three priority areas for the police department are community safety, community engagement, and maintaining a culture of success.

Questions were received from:

Carlos Quiroz, Redwood - Asked about the neighborhoods getting together for meetings at the same time to meet with the department

Diana Velzy, Orchard Park - will future meetings include a new beat officer? ANSWER: Eventually, yes, but not right away

Jon Huyke, Bryce Canyon North - asked about racial profiling requirements from the DOJ, federal or state? ANSWER: It is a federal requirement

Chris Hernandez, Five Points - For the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) reports, is training in place, and who are the reports submitted to? ANSWER: Agencies were left to come up with their own ways to adhere to guidelines; a group of officers/staff are looking at the best way to submit the data to the federal government; implementing a model similar to San Diego PD, will require training

Jack Villa, Hobson Park East - policy and procedures for use of force, constant training, and how they engage the public? ANSWER: There is a 30-minute briefing every day before officers start their day, which includes collaborative training, incident debriefs

Raini Steffen, Cabrillo - Does the City have victim assistant advocates? ANSWER: The City has had different iterations of something similar in the past, with the loss of budget, a victim advocate position was cut; interested in talking more about the subject

Aaron Greer, Windsor North - California is light years ahead in professional standards, training, doing a lot better than other places, how long is the current academy? ANSWER: 21-22 weeks; training in other parts of the country are not so good

2. SUBJECT: Update on Cannabis in City

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from the City's Planning and Sustainability Manager, Kathleen Mallory, followed by Q&A

City staff members Kathleen Mallory and Jose Coyotl hosted a Q&A on cannabis; offered to meet with anyone on the permit process or anything cannabis-related. Wants to be put on future INCO's agenda for the next six months. Explained the City's ordinance, what is and is not allowed.

Questions were received from:

Jack Villa, Hobson Park East - loitering, police calls, outside dispensaries; who conducts the process?

ANSWER: There are strict restrictions/requirements in the ordinance such as lighting requirements, no loitering, no ability for illegal activities, unannounced spot checks through PD and Code Compliance.

Diana Velzy, Orchard Park - if there is opposition to a dispensary opening, the residents should let staff know? ANSWER: Absolutely, the process fielded over 50 applicants, ultimately selected 16, there was a process laid out, including understanding how they engage with their community, assisting their neighborhoods. Encouraged residents to reach out to staff early and often.

Chris Hernandez, Five Points Northeast - distribution company in Five Points, how will this impact traffic in the area? ANSWER: through the review process, the staff looks at all aspects of operations, including circulation and traffic. The building in question was approved as an industrial building, so truck trips are allowed, however, staff still looks at how many truck trips would be required for operations, and staff would impose conditions/improvements; what improvements have you required on the business?

ANSWER: The project was exempt based on the road network and allowable use of the building; \$250K equity program per retail applicant; Special Use permit process, what can hold someone back?

ANSWER: they did not engage with the community, did not meet with the neighborhoods,

Aaron Greer, Windsor North - Realignment of downtown traffic patterns on Oxnard Blvd, contingent on Rice and 5th completion

F. NEIGHBORHOOD CHAIR REPORTS Reports were received from:

Paul Henke, East Village - At May 19 neighborhood meeting, Fire Chief will speak

Diana Velzy, Orchard Park - Had neighborhood meeting on April 29, good turnout

Chris Hernandez, Five Points Northeast - meeting on Saturday to go over Google Meet with neighbors, will continue every Thursday with Mar Vista neighborhood and Roger Poirier

G. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS Reports were received from:

None.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, 1st Vice-Chair Villa adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Smith
Executive Secretary