

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 7th day of April, 2009, at the hour of 6:36 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

Fire Chief Scott Ferguson led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Montgomery, Powell, Ward and Mayor Cohen.
Ward (not present after 7:45 p.m.)
Absent: Tell.
Clerk: Aliabadi (Acting).

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR

04/07/09-1. Presentation of a Commendation to the City Council from Sister City Santa Rosalia, Mexico

Members of the Sister City organization were unable to attend the meeting.

04/07/09-2. Presentation Regarding City Applications for Federal Stimulus Money

Finance Director Bruce Moe presented an overview of the funding available under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) that the City is actively pursuing. He noted that, as of this time, the City has secured approximately \$155,000 of ARRA funding for energy retrofits for public buildings.

The Council held a brief discussion on the anticipated time frame for the award of additional funding; whether the State can utilize any of the ARRA funds the City receives; and if the City is eligible for funding for the energy audit.

Finance Director Moe offered information on the anticipated time frame to receive funding and the unlikelihood that the State can utilize ARRA funds received by the City.

City Manager Geoff Dolan commented on the probability that the City can fund the energy audit out of the \$155,000 in funding received for energy retrofits for public buildings and advised that the question of whether the Council wishes to move forward with the energy audit will be presented for discussion in the near future.

Mayor Cohen noted that further information on the ARRA can be obtained at www.recovery.gov.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar (Item Nos. 3 through 12), consisting of items under *General Consent* and *Boards and Commissions*, was approved by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Ward, seconded by Councilmember Powell, and passed by the following roll call vote, with the exception of Item No. 6, which was considered later in the meeting under “*Items Removed from the Consent Calendar*”.

Ayes: Montgomery, Powell, Ward and Mayor Cohen.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Tell.

GENERAL CONSENT

04/07/09-3. Approve Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of March 17, 2009

The Council approved the subject minutes.

04/07/09-4. This Space Intentionally Left Blank

04/07/09-5. Consideration of the State Budget and Legislative Update

The Council received and filed the April 2009 Budget and Legislative Update from Tony Rice, the City’s legislative advocate.

04/07/09-6. Authorize the Mayor to Sign Support and Opposition Letters on Behalf of the City Council Related to Pending Single-Use Carry-Out Bag Legislation

Item No. 6 was pulled from the “CONSENT CALENDAR”. Please refer to “ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR.”

04/07/09-7. Consideration of Financial Reports: Ratification of Demands, March 19, 2009 & April 2, 2009

The Council approved with no exception Warrant Register Nos. 20B & 21B in the amount of \$5,001,893.23 in payment of ratification of demands and claims as prepared by the Director of Finance, together with the original demands and claims as prepared by said Warrant Register.

04/07/09-8. Consideration of Agreement Among the Beach Cities to Contract for Joint Professional Services for Bacteria TMDL Compliance

The Council approved authorizing the City Manager to execute the multi-agency Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to cooperatively and jointly fund the Phase I implementation and Phase II performance assessment of the Jurisdictional Groups 5 and 6 Implementation Plan in accordance with the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load regulations with a maximum contribution by the City of Manhattan Beach of \$176,913.

04/07/09-9. Disbursement of Progress Payments:

- a) Progress Payment No. 6 in the Net Amount of \$17,093.25 to C.S. Legacy Construction, Inc. for the Manhattan Beach Park Improvement Project
- b) Progress Payment No. 2 in the Net Amount of \$41,242.49 to A.J. Fistes Corporation for the Peck Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
- c) Final Payment in the Net Amount of \$181,449.00 to KC Industries; Formally Accept the Manhattan Beach Structures 2 & 4 Corrosion Treatment Project as Complete; and Authorize Filing of the Appropriate Notice of Completion

The Council approved the issuance of the subject progress payments and final payment; formally accepted the Manhattan Beach Structures 2 & 4 Corrosion Treatment Project as Complete; and authorized the filing of the appropriate Notice of Completion.

04/07/09-10. Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Sepulveda Boulevard Bridge Widening Project Grant Application in Metro's 2009 Call for Projects

The Council adopted Resolution No. 6182.

RESOLUTION NO. 6182

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE METRO 2009 CALL FOR PROJECTS GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE SEPULVEDA BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Cultural Arts Commission

04/07/09-11. Consideration of Draft Minutes, Cultural Arts Commission Special Meeting of February 26, 2009

The Council received and filed the subject draft minutes.

04/07/09-12. Consideration of Draft Minutes, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting of March 10, 2009

The Council received and filed the subject draft minutes.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

04/07/09-16. Don Gould Re Manhattan Beach Library

Los Angeles County Librarian Don Gould shared information about upcoming events at Manhattan Beach Library.

04/07/09-17. Vanessa Poster Re "Steppin' Out"

Vanessa Poster, No Address Provided, announced the Beach Cities Health District's "Steppin' Out" campaign April 20 to 26, 2009, open to all South Bay residents. She explained that additional information can be obtained by visiting www.bchd.org.

04/07/09-18. Barbara Arlow Re "It Takes a Village to Raise a Foster Child"

Barbara Arlow, No Address Provided, provided input on the League of Women Voters' "It Takes a Village to Raise a Foster Child" event in conjunction with the Redondo Beach Library and Children's Law Center of Los Angeles at the main Redondo Beach Library on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

04/07/09-19. Patricia Schilling Re Pier-to-Pier Walkathon

Patricia Schilling, No Address Provided, called attention to the Richstone Center's 22nd Annual Pier-to-Pier Walkathon on April 25, 2009, for the prevention and treatment of child abuse. To sign up and obtain additional information, go to www.richstonefamily.org.

04/07/09-20. Teresa Wood and Mary Yollin Re Pacific Crisis Committee

Teresa Wood, No Address Provided, announced the Pacific Crisis Committee's "Save a Teacher" campaign, formed to raise funds due to budget reductions. She invited the Councilmembers to participate in the Committee's "Crisis Cocktail" event on April 15, 2009, at her home.

Mary Yollin, No Address Provided, noted the Pacific Crisis Committee's "Save A Teacher" rummage sale fundraiser on May 1 and 2, 2009, at American Martyrs School. She stated that the Committee will be accepting donations as follows: April 24, 2009, Manhattan Beach Middle School; April 25, 2009, Pacific School; and April 25, 2009, Mira Costa High School. Additional information can be obtained at www.mbsaveourteachers.org.

04/07/09-21. Katie Holmes Re Relay for Life

Katie Holmes, No Address Provided, related the American Cancer Society's appreciation of the assistance provided by Mayor Cohen and Councilmember Montgomery on the approval of the Society's upcoming "Relay for Life."

04/07/09-22. Candy Gravner Re Peaceful Anti Tax Rally

Candy Gravner, No Address Provided, invited the Council and public to participate in a peaceful anti-tax rally against Proposition 1A on April 11, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hermosa Beach Pier.

04/07/09-23. Shannon Werts and Sheryl Clemens Re Leadership Manhattan Beach

Shannon Werts and Sheryl Clemens, Leadership Manhattan Beach, informed the Councilmembers of their successful fundraiser, which will allow for the purchase of three "Big Belly" trash containers instead of one. They noted planned locations for the containers and the ribbon cutting ceremony at Polliwog Park on May 9, 2009, and that one of the containers will be on display at the Earth Day celebration on April 18, 2009.

04/07/09-24. Barbara Heacox and George Butts Re Check from Manhattan Beach Property Owners' Association to CERT

On behalf of the Manhattan Beach Property Owners' Association, Barbara Heacox presented a check in the amount of \$15,500 to the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** for the purchase of emergency equipment.

Accepting the check on behalf of **CERT, George Butts**, thanked the **Property Owners' Association**, the Manhattan Beach Fire Department and the Council for their support. He relayed that individuals interested in attending a CERT class should contact him at gbutts@mbcerta.org or call (310) 701-0101.

04/07/09-25. Sara Gelb Re Healthy Living Festival

Sara Gelb, Executive Director of Growing Great, announced the 3rd annual "Healthy Living Festival" on May 17, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Metlox plaza.

04/07/09-26. Robert Bush Re Taxes

Robert Bush, No Address Provided, advised the Council regarding efforts to increase property taxes in California and encouraged everyone to visit www.hjta.org for further information.

04/07/09-27. Mayor Pro Tem Ward Re Youth Recognition Awards

Mayor Pro Tem Ward shared information on the status of the Youth Recognition Awards and expressed appreciation for the generous donations. He related his intent to depart the meeting early this evening to accept another contribution to the Awards.

04/07/09-28. Mayor Cohen Re Earth Day

Mayor Cohen highlighted Earth Day on April 18, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., during which Leadership Manhattan Beach's Big Belly trash container will be displayed. She advised that Mira Costa High School's Ecology Club will also hold a "Water Wise Pond Garden Tour" fundraiser from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning at Polliwog Park.

04/07/09-29. Councilmember Montgomery Re Planet Pals Receipt of Award

Councilmember Richard Montgomery announced that Planet Pals' received a United States Environmental Protection Agency award recognizing environmental advocates.

04/07/09-30. Mayor Cohen Re 5th Annual International Asbestos Conference

Mayor Portia Cohen commented on her and Mayor Pro Tem Mitch Ward's participation in the 5th Annual International Asbestos Conference, which took place in Manhattan Beach.

Mayor Pro Tem Ward encouraged the Council to pass a resolution encouraging the Federal Government to ban asbestos in the United States.

04/07/09-31. Mayor Cohen Re Mayor's Traveling Open House Program

Mayor Portia Cohen stated that information about the Mayor's Traveling Open House program can be obtained on the City's website and invited community members interested in hosting an open house to e-mail her.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

04/07/09-13. Consideration of Issues Related to Community Events in the City of Manhattan Beach:

- a) Review of Policy Not Allowing for Additional Events Due to Impacts on the Community
- b) Review of Fee Waiver Requests for Approved "Legacy" Events
- c) Review Requests for Fee Waives for New/Additional Events

City Manager Geoff Dolan advised that this matter arose due to the anticipated budget deficit and the Council's past practice to not accept any additional events. He asked the Council to reconsider the policy of not allowing additional events; review fee waiver requests for approved "legacy" events; and review requests for fee waivers for new/additional events.

Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill explained the Council's past practice of waiving fees for "legacy" events and staff's recommendation that most of the agencies should contribute 25% of the fee, which would add additional revenue of approximately \$22,000 to the City. He related that complaints regarding events are generally about street closures and the negative impact on Downtown businesses. He advised the Council of staff's initial approval of the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" event and subsequent denial based on their later request for a band shell, a public address system, performing bands, field lights over night, movies until 6:00 a.m. and a listing on the city's website. He recommended that Council deny this request; asked the Council to reaffirm the policy against adding additional events; approve charging the ten "legacy" events 25% of the total fee (with the exception of the Manhattan Beach 10K Run, the Holiday Fireworks Festival and the Little League Opening Day Parade); deny the fee waiver requests from the four new agencies; and discuss parameters for future requests to hold events in Manhattan Beach. Parks & Recreation Director Gill confirmed that the ten "legacy" agencies were notified of the Council's consideration of this item tonight; however, he was uncertain as to whether the Manhattan Beach Wine Auction, a new requestor, was notified. In conclusion, he described the process for determining the fee amounts for events, including those proposed for the Hometown Fair.

City Manager Dolan offered input on the fees proposed for the Manhattan Beach 10K Run, which is the largest of its kind without a sponsor. He clarified that the effective date of the proposed fee structure would be July 16, 2009; that the agencies being considered for fee waivers this evening are non-profit organizations; and that the Council considers fee waivers for non-profit groups every year at this time.

The Council pondered whether there has been any discussion of the Manhattan Beach 10K Run being held outside of Manhattan Beach and discussed the idea of approving the "Relay for Life" event without sound amplification, as originally proposed.

Mayor Cohen related her appreciation of the enthusiasm for events in Manhattan Beach and noted the importance of not constraining the right to assemble while protecting peace for residents. Stressing the importance of consistency in denying or approving events, she voiced her desire to discuss how to regulate the quality of events and how to ensure a nexus between merchants and residents. Mayor Cohen suggested that the Council obtain information on whether residents are benefitting financially or otherwise from these functions and which events impact residents and merchants the most.

Mayor Pro Tem Ward questioned why the Chevron Grand Prix receives more subsidy than other events, such as the Hometown Fair, and expressed his wish to review whether corporations should be allowed to "brand" events in the City with their names.

The following individuals spoke on this item:

- **Robert Jones, Operations Director of the Chevron Grand Prix**
- **Susan Adams, Hometown Fair**
- **Peggy Curry, Founder Growing Great**
- **Katie Holmes, American Cancer Society**
- **George Butts, Community Emergency Response Team**
- **Mary Morigaki, President Neptunian Woman's Club**
- **Rachel Judson & Russ Lesser, Manhattan Beach 10K Run**

MAYOR PRO TEM WARD LEFT THE MEETING AT 7:45 P.M.

Council and City Manager Dolan thanked **Mr. Lesser** for his offer to pay the banner permit fee of \$155.00 for the Neptunian Woman's Club's.

Councilmember Montgomery noted that the Chevron Grand Prix could be the Manhattan Beach/Chevron Grand Prix. He related his understanding that Growing Great must pay Los Angeles County Health Department for permits for two food vendors to participate in their "Healthy Living Festival;" noted that the public address system at last year's "Relay for Life" in Redondo Beach was used intermittently; and pointed out that the Hometown Fair gives back to the community. Councilmember Montgomery recommended that a decision on the Manhattan Beach Wine Auction's fee waiver request be delayed since a representative from that organization was not present this evening; commented on the issue of setting a precedent for schools to be exempt from fees; and voiced his agreement with charging 25% of the total fees, with the understanding that the organizations to which this should apply must be discussed.

City Manager Dolan pointed out that the fee for Growing Great's "Healthy Living Festival" is only \$45.00. He related staff's anticipation that a public address system at the "Relay for Life" would result in complaints from residents and clarified the Neptunian Woman's Club's request to waive a banner permit fee.

After a brief discussion between the Council, City Manager Dolan and **Ms. Holmes**, it was determined that the Relay for Life event will not need the services they originally requested; therefore, there would be no City fees associated with the event.

Commissioner Powell commented on the difficulty of drawing the line on certain organizations being exempted from fees strictly on tradition and noted that some local organizations give all of the profits back to the community. He pointed out the added difficulty of this decision due to the economic crisis and the budget shortfall with which the City is faced. Commissioner Powell indicated that he could agree with either waiving all of the fees or charging 25%.

Mayor Cohen questioned if it would be fair to impose a charge on events already planned during this year. She commented on the difficulty of drawing the line as to which organizations would be exempt from the fees and stated her support for charging schools 25% of the fees this year and next year due to the dire economic circumstances and, out of respect to history, charging "legacy" organizations 25% of the fees.

MOTION: Councilmember Powell moved to approve charging 25% of the fees to all "legacy" organizations except the Manhattan Beach 10K Run; the Holiday Fireworks Festival and Little League Opening Day Parade and approve waiving fees for all school events, including the Manhattan Beach Wine Auction for this year, with the stipulation that they be revisited next year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Montgomery and passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Montgomery, Powell and Mayor Cohen.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Tell, Ward.

City Manager Dolan recommended that the Council discuss reaffirming the existing policy of limiting the number of events in the City.

Prior to doing so, the Council asked staff to provide input at a future meeting as to the total number of events in the City annually; the suggested parameters for accepting and denying special events; and the meaning of “zero impact.”

Councilmember Montgomery said that he has no problem with allowing additional low-impact events, but they should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. He invited individuals wishing to donate to events to contact City staff.

City Manager Dolan verified staff’s intent to provide input on the total number of events in the City annually and draft a protocol for accepting and denying special events. He thanked the Council for their consideration and noted that it was not staff’s desire to recommend fees, but the state of the City’s budget led to it.

Mayor Cohen said that it is quite generous of the City to pick up 75% of the fees and she thanked the non-profit organizations for understanding.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

At 8:37 p.m. the Council recessed and reconvened at 8:53 p.m. with Councilmembers Powell, Montgomery and Mayor Cohen present.

04/07/09-14. Recommendations from the Cultural Arts Commission to Implement a Temporary/Annual Public Art Program Through Metlox, Civic Center Plaza and Veterans Parkway; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contracts with the Artists for the Program

City Manager Geoff Dolan advised that the Annual Public Art Program has been in process for many years and that it is funded through the Public Art Trust, derived from Building Department permit fees designated to art that are not available for anything else.

Cultural Arts Manager Juanita Purner clarified that the Program would cost approximately \$42,500 and the current balance in the Public Art Trust is \$272,477. She explained that the vision of the Program is to enhance the community setting, stimulate interest in visual arts and attract community members and visitors to the Downtown area. She described the proposed sculptures/locations; presented mock ups of three of the sculptures by artist Amos Robinson; provided input on the art education outreach component of the Program; and shared information on the artists’ and City’s responsibilities associated with the Program.

During Council discussion, Cultural Arts Manager Purner affirmed that the art would be installed approximately 90 days after approval of the Program and that plaques would explain that the art is there on a temporary basis. She provided input on the City’s insurance coverage for the art, as well as the Public Art Trust Fund.

The following individuals spoke on this item:

- **Susan Sweeney, Cultural Arts Commission**
- **Candy Duncan, Cultural Arts Commission**

Councilmember Montgomery related his support of the Public Art Program and the sculptures as recommended, except that the windmill sculpture should be replaced by the solar illumination sculpture. He pointed out that an additional sculpture could easily be funded and placed toward the south side of Veteran's Parkway.

Having served on the Cultural Arts Commission, Councilmember Powell related his appreciation that the Public Art Program is finally coming to fruition. He agreed with Councilmember Montgomery's opinion that the windmill sculpture should be replaced with the solar illumination sculpture.

Mayor Cohen stated her excitement over this Program. She related her trust for and respect of the Cultural Arts Commission's decision and her agreement with the sculptures as recommended, including the windmill sculpture.

City Manager Dolan clarified that the Council must approve expenditures out of the Public Art Trust Fund; that expenditures are typically recommended by the Cultural Arts Commission; and that the parameters for spending the Fund include a deadline for spending and the funds are spent according to the earliest received. He offered information on the approximate cost of the sculptures and verified that there is more than enough money in the Public Art Trust Fund to add another, should the Council so desire.

Cultural Arts Manager Purner indicated that, according to the Finance Department, the City is not in danger of losing any of the Public Art Trust Fund and that it can not be used for anything other than public art.

Concurring with Cultural Arts Manager Purner, City Attorney Robert Wadden reiterated that it would be illegal to borrow against the Public Art Trust Fund.

MOTION: Councilmember Montgomery moved to approve implementing a temporary/annual Public Art Program in Metlox, throughout the Civic Center Plaza and in Veteran's Parkway, with monies from the Public Art Trust Fund, and with the addition of a seventh solar illumination sculpture. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powell.

After a brief comment regarding the recommendation, Councilmember Montgomery restated his motion.

MOTION: Councilmember Montgomery moved to approve implementing a temporary/annual Public Art Program in Metlox, throughout the Civic Center Plaza and in Veteran's Parkway, with monies from the Public Art Trust Fund, and with the addition of a seventh solar illumination sculpture and approve authorizing the City Manager to sign and execute contracts with selected artists. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powell and passed by the following roll vote:

Ayes: Montgomery, Powell, and Mayor Cohen.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Tell and Ward.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

04/07/09-6. *Authorize the Mayor to Sign Support and Opposition Letters on Behalf of the City Council Related to Pending Single-Use Carry-Out Bag Legislation*

Mayor Cohen explained that she pulled this item from the Consent Calendar to obtain input from staff on the impact this legislation could have on banning plastic bags in the City.

Assistant to the City Manager Lindy Coe-Juell presented information on the City's efforts to ban plastic bags, which were supported by many members of the community and a majority of businesses in July 2008. She advised that the proposed action would help encourage reusable bags, which coincides with the Council's goals.

Mayor Cohen commented on the controversy surrounding the ban on plastic bags. She noted that an environmental impact report (EIR) would be very expensive and, given the economic crisis, the City has decided not to do one; but, the City could work off of the County's EIR.

City Attorney Robert Wadden advised that there is no cost to the City associated with the appeal of the City's decision to ban plastic bags in that all of the work will be done in-house and government agencies do not pay filing fees.

MOTION: Councilmember Powell moved to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign letters on behalf of the City Council in support of Assembly Bill 68 and Assembly Bill 87. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Montgomery and passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Montgomery, Powell and Mayor Cohen.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Tell and Ward.

Councilmember Montgomery encouraged residents in support of the ban on plastic bags to contact Senator Jenny Oropeza.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

04/07/09-32. *Robert Bush Re Opposition to Street Sweeping Signs*

Robert Bush, No Address Provided, distributed written material pertaining to his opposition to street sweeping signs in the Hill Section of Manhattan Beach.

Councilmember Montgomery emphasized that the information distributed by **Mr. Bush** is not a City document. He also called attention to the right to "opt in" or "opt out" of the Street Sweeping Sign Program.

04/07/09-33. *Martha Andreani Re Various Matters*

Martha Andreani, Manhattan Beach Resident's Association, noted the Association's appreciation of Mayor Cohen's traveling Town Hall Meeting idea.

She suggested that the "Audience Participation" section of City Council meetings be moved toward the beginning of the meeting and that the agenda packages be posted prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Fridays before the meetings.

The Council held discussion about the idea of the agenda packages being available earlier than the Friday before the meetings and whether moving the “Audience Participation” portion of the agenda toward the beginning of the meeting would encourage additional speakers.

City Manager Dolan Geoff explained the difficulty of providing the agenda any sooner than the Friday before a City Council meeting. With regard to moving the “Audience Participation” portion of the agenda toward the beginning of the meeting, he advised the Council of a resolution setting forth the order of the agenda items; but, explained that the Council could reconsider this. He added that doing so would delay the opportunity for others who came to speak on specific items on the agenda. City Manager Dolan confirmed that this topic will be included for discussion on a future City Council meeting agenda.

04/07/09-34. Patrick McBride Re Distribution of Agenda Packages

Patrick McBride, 5th Street and Peck Avenue, agreed that the agenda packages should be available sooner than the Fridays before the meetings.

04/07/09-35. Patrick McBride Re Senior Survey

Patrick McBride, 5th Street and Peck Avenue, commented on the importance of compiling hard data from the Senior Survey. He voiced his concern that questions about poor night vision and transportation other than Dial-A-Ride were not included in the Survey.

04/07/09-36. Peter De Maria Re Sculpture Garden

Peter De Maria, Cultural Arts Commission, acknowledged the efforts of the Cultural Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Manager Juanita Purner with regard to the Sculpture Garden and voiced his appreciation of the Council’s approval.

CITY MANAGER REPORT(S)

None.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS, COMMITTEE AND TRAVEL REPORTS

04/07/09-37. Councilmember Powell Re Thanks to Beach Cities Health District

Councilmember Powell thanked the **Beach Cities Health District** and **Vanessa Poster** for items distributed during the meeting and encouraged participation in the District’s upcoming “Steppin’ Out” campaign.

04/07/09-15. Request by Mayor Cohen to Reconsider Downtown Parking Meter Program/Cash Keys

Mayor Cohen related a request from the Downtown Business & Professional Association and the Chamber of Commerce to revisit the Downtown Parking Program. She stated her support for looking at the entire Downtown Parking Program to help Downtown businesses, including the possibility of rolling back parking meter rates. She stated that some customers are getting additional tickets for not curbing their wheels and spoke of proposals to “warn” people so that they won’t be discouraged from shopping in the downtown area.

City Manager Geoff Dolan explained the Council's past practice of asking for support from the Council in order to place items such as this on a future meeting agenda. He advised that the Downtown Parking Study is scheduled for the Council's review and that a related General Business item from the Police Department will be provided.

The Council discussed studying the parking fees in the Downtown area and agreed to revisit this matter when all the Councilmembers who voted for the current Downtown Parking Program are present.

Police Captain Randy Leaf gave a brief explanation about the safety issues associated with people not curbing their vehicle wheels.

Mayor Cohen suggested that educational information about curbing wheels be placed on or near parking meters.

City Manager Dolan confirmed that stickers with this information could be placed on parking meters and that notices will be placed in the City newsletter and water bills and on the City's website.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:23 p.m., the meeting was duly adjourned to the 5:30 p.m. Adjourned Regular Meeting to be followed by the 6:30 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

Wendy Weeks
Recording Secretary

Portia P. Cohen
Mayor

ATTEST:

Liza Tamura
City Clerk