

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 29TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2011 9:15 A.M.
LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
1115 EL CENTRO STREET**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ten convened the special meeting of the City Council to meet with Senator Kevin de León, 22nd Senatorial District, at 9:15 a.m. Senator De León was present along with City Councilmembers Putnam and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti; and Mayor Ten. Member absent: Councilmember Sifuentes. Other officials present: City Manager Davidson; City Attorney Adams; Assistant City Manager Gonzalez; Police Chief Payne; Fire Chief Wallace; City Librarian Fjeldsted; Community Services Director Pautsch; Public Works Director Sweeney; Planning and Building Director Watkins; Transportation Manager Woods; and City Clerk Kilby. Present from Senator De León's office were Adam Ma, Senior Field Representative, and Steve Veres, District Director.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Putnam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEET AND GREET: SENATOR DE LEÓN AND STAFF

Mayor Ten expressed appreciation to Senator De León for making time to meet with the City. He congratulated him as the newly elected Senator for the 22nd Senate District. He made introductory remarks and introduced the Senator.

Senator de León made a brief presentation. He spoke about the diversity of his district and his background. He said that for the City to have a redevelopment area was "quite interesting." He said he wants to listen, learn, and lead for the future.

CONCERNS ON EFFECT OF STATE BUDGET CUTBACKS

Councilmember Putnam, in regard to redevelopment, pointed out that the west side of the City, the Ostrich Farm area, is drastically blighted. He spoke about the great need to stimulate economic growth and avoid blight. He asked whether the Senator has taken a position on the Governor's plan to eliminate redevelopment areas.

Senator De León responded, stating that this is a controversial issue. He said that he recently said he would vote in favor of eliminating redevelopment agencies. He agreed there are good and bad agencies. He noted that State Controller John Chiang has undertaken an investi-

gation of redevelopment agencies statewide. If this source of funding is not implemented, he said that \$1.7 billion must be found elsewhere for teachers, public safety, and firefighters. He said efforts are underway to save the redevelopment programs that have a good track record as opposed to those rife with corruption or not using the funds.

Councilmember Putnam suggested modifying what redevelopment funds can be used for. The idea is to promote long-term economic growth, he said, and if the tax base is increased, this helps solve the structural deficit. Senator De León responded.

Councilmember Schneider noted that the City has sent a letter to Governor Brown concerning the budget. In the letter, he said, the City pointed to 500 homes in the 710 corridor that could be sold to raise approximately \$300 million. Senator De León commented that there is a debate as to where the funds would go. The Senator said he has an open mind on the issue, and that he would prefer that the funds be earmarked for public education.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti spoke about the State selling state office buildings. He urged the sale of the 710-freeway corridor properties. Senator De León responded with remarks about the recession and whether to sell the state buildings. He said he is reluctant to do a "fire sale."

Mayor Ten opened the public comment period.

Dr. Richard Sonner, 401 Prospect Circle, South Pasadena Unified School District Board Member, who said he is also an emergency physician and an emergency medicine teacher, spoke about the school budget cuts. He said he is glad to see that the State is considering real cuts to solve the budget deficit. The City supports public education strongly, he said. Education is the best economic stimulus for the future, he said, and he urged the Senator to keep that in mind for the State.

Senator De León spoke about emergency room use and related health care issues. He spoke about the Governor's proposal to resolve the budget issues. He said the State must take quick and immediate action with regard to the bond rating. He spoke about the historical structural deficit

and the lack of accountability. He said education is very important, and that this is one program that he will fight in the State budget to keep whole. He said that the South Pasadena school system is one of the best in the State.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
RELATED TO
A. PROPOSED STATE ROUTE
710 NORTH EXTENSION**

Mayor Ten opened the public comment period on Transportation issues. He allowed speakers 90 seconds for each comment.

Ernie Arnold, 1230 Oak Hill Avenue, asked that the Senator protect the constitutional rights of an incorporated city. Since the proposed 710 freeway extension was first adopted in 1964, he said, five Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) have been rejected by the Federal Highway Administration. Findings have not been made to override the impacts, he said. He urged not spending money on a project that is attempting to override the rights of a city. He made related remarks in opposition to the proposed 710 Freeway North Extension.

Janet Ervin, 801 Meridian Avenue, provided a brief history of the City's opposition to the proposed freeway. She raised various issues, including the health of communities adjacent to freeways; support for commuter-friendly transit for commuters and for heavy rail to move freight from the ports; and the proposed public-private partnership for a tunnel. She asked about the Senator's view on public-private partnerships for public works projects.

Dr. Bill Sherman, 320 Grand Avenue, expressed opposition to the proposed SR-710 North Extension. He cited a 2007 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) study that found that traffic would not improve with the freeway and other investigations related to air pollution. He said the cost would be borne by the public. He asked if the Senator supported the tunnel.

Jim Miller, 1103 Hope Street, expressed opposition to the proposed 710 tunnel. He raised the issue of the lack of cost/benefit studies and alternative, viable transportation options. He made remarks about estimated costs, which he said range from \$1 billion to \$14+ billion. He agreed to provide the reference chart on costs to the Senator. He asked the Senator to redirect these funds.

Don Justin Jones, 225 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, noted

that the surface route is dead. He said this should trigger the Roberti Bill, which stipulates that the proposed freeway-related Caltrans homes be offered to existing income-eligible tenants. The tenants' association estimates that less than 20% of the tenants are eligible to purchase the homes, he said. Speaker Jones made related remarks about the proceeds, which he said had been determined must be deposited to the General Fund. Now, he said, special legislation has been introduced to permit proceeds to be deposited into the education fund. In regard to comments about blight, he said there are more than 30 vacant Caltrans properties in the City. There is a tremendous opportunity for redevelopment, he said. He urged selling the Caltrans homes, exercising the Roberti Bill, and directing proceeds to education.

Dr. Clyde Williams, 4115 Barrett Road, El Sereno, Los Angeles, raised the issue of the housing deficit. He said El Sereno, Pasadena, and South Pasadena have suffered for more than 20 years from having Caltrans as one of the largest and worst slumlords. If funds from the sale of the homes are transferred to the State, he said, the communities will reap little. He asked the Senator to pledge to return any proceeds to those communities that have been in deficit.

Barry Gordon, 1912 Kaweah Drive, Pasadena, who said he is President, One Community, thanked officials for attending a recent transportation conference, which he said was attended by more than 300. He said the group is a grassroots think tank, and he offered this as a resource.

Mayor Ten invited Councilmembers to make comments.

Councilmember Schneider said he distributed a document containing a satellite view of the proposed SR-710 North Extension and a letter from Grifols Corporation, a company adjacent to the proposed tunnel that would be significantly impacted. He said the company produces life-saving medical substances, and he read from the letter.

Councilmember Putnam noted that the former State Senator Gilbert Cedillo was an outspoken proponent of the 710 freeway extension. Councilmember Putnam said the City is opposed to any extension of the 710 freeway. The proposed tunnel will be economically and environmentally

difficult, he said, and the fallback position would be to return to a surface route. He asked the Senator to assist the City in having that option permanently eliminated, as was attempted by Senator Cedillo. He said then the Caltrans homes could be sold while the tunnel is still being considered.

Senator De León, who said he is sensitive to freeways transecting communities, stated he unequivocally opposes any surface route. He elaborated on the adverse respiratory effects of surface freeways, which in this area relate to goods movement from the ports. He said he is supportive of the concept and idea of a tunnel. However, he said, he wants to have an open mind. He received a packet of information from speaker Don Jones, and he plans to review that. He said he will not be persuaded by polarizing polemic language. He will review the data and the methodology employed to collect the data, he said. He is not dogmatic, he said, and he is willing to listen and learn. If there are alternatives, he said he is open to them.

Speaker Jones said that the Senator is an open, forthright, and honest person.

B. METRO GOLD LINE MITIGATION AND PROPOSALS

Mayor Ten, in regard to the Gold Line, described past litigation and the City's appeal to the California Public Utilities Commission to seek mitigation for the deleterious effects of the Gold Line on the City. He asked for the Senator's support in obtaining all mitigations negotiated by the City. He said a committee has been formed to ensure that this occurs.

C. FAIR OAKS CORRIDOR PROJECTS

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti raised the issue of funds that have been allocated to make interim traffic improvements until the proposed 710 extension issue is resolved. He provided the history of these funds for three cities, which originated with funds obtained from former Congressman James Rogan. A total of \$16 million was allocated from various sources, he said. He described Fair Oaks traffic issues and the proposed projects as well as the \$10 million shortfall.

Councilmember Schneider noted that the project is ready to go and would be advantageous for both traffic and employment. Mayor Ten said that this would improve traffic in communities to the north and south.

Senator De León, in regard to former Senator Cedillo's legislation, SB 545, said he was shocked by then-Governor Schwarzenegger's veto of this bill. He said he wanted to consult with Assemblymember Portantino regarding this. He said that similar legislation is a possibility. Councilmember Putnam said the reason given for the veto was that the State would be obligated to sell the Caltrans homes in accord with the Roberti Bill, which Councilmember Putnam said was completely disingenuous.

Mayor Ten opened the public comment period.

Clyde Williams, El Sereno (address noted previously), said the basic element in infrastructure restoration is capital cost along with life-of-the-project cost. Unfortunately, with something like a tunnel, he said, there are continuing costs. Often, he said, communities are saddled with projects without adequate support for operations and maintenance. He provided examples of how communities end up paying.

Senator De León, in regard to public-private partnerships, said the jury is out on this issue. As yet, he said he has not seen any positive value. He spoke about special assessment districts, and he said real meaningful costs of projects are important to determine.

INFRASTRUCTURE RESTORATION

Mayor Ten commented that the Senator's district includes some of the oldest communities in the area. He raised the issue of aging infrastructure in the City. He asked the Senator to remember that small communities struggle to keep their infrastructure intact.

Senator De León said he hoped that this will be the beginning of an open communication with the City. Mayor Ten invited Councilmembers to make final comments.

Councilmember Putnam expressed appreciation to the Senator for assigning a liaison to the City. He said Adam Ma is doing an excellent job. He and the rest of the Councilmembers expressed appreciation to the Senator for participating in the meeting and offered their assistance and willingness to work with him.

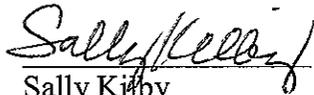
Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti spoke about the costs of infra-

structure repair in the City, including \$60 million needed for water system repair, and \$100 million for sewer repair. He said the General Fund budget is \$20 million/year. He said this is a major crisis. He spoke about alternatives to the proposed freeway extension, and he noted that even with a tunnel, the traffic on Atlantic and Fremont will not improve. He spoke about negative health-related effects of freeways.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator De León expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with South Pasadena and said he is honored to represent the City. He introduced his staff in attendance.

By consensus, the City Council adjourned at 10:37 a.m.


Sally Kirby
City Clerk


Mike Ten
Mayor