



General Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2021

Via Zoom Call

www.theCVCouncil.com or contact@theCVCouncil.com

Please turn off or silence cell phones while inside the Council meeting

1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:00 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by John Kroening
3. Invocation:
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Lewin, Ear, Rodriguez, Ordubegian, Kilpatrick, Stupakis, Libra, Yu, and Hoffman Not Present: Rabinov and Brookbank
5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to Approve by Councilmember Ear. Seconded by Councilmember Lewin. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of April Meeting Agenda, plus addendum (Proclamation of Armenian Genocide by CVTC), **Motion** to Approve by Councilmember Ordubegian. Seconded by Councilmember Ear. Approved unanimously
7. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
 - a. Presenting Proclamation of Armenian Genocide by the CVTC – Councilmember Ear comments - April is designated genocide awareness month. We said never again after the holocaust, but even now, they are still happening, and they are real. It's about remembering the past genocides, and everything that people went through during those; but also looking at what is currently going on around the world, and trying to prevent/advocate against such atrocities. I'm happy that the state of California, along with a few others, recognizes genocide awareness month. A few words about all the genocides that happened in the month of April - Darfur Genocide is April 3rd, Siege of Sarajevo is April 5th, Rwandan Genocide

Remembrance is April 7th, the Holocaust Remembrance is April 12th, Cambodian Genocide (which is near and dear to my heart, as me and my wife are survivors of that, and it wasn't all that long ago). Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day is April 24th. Councilmember Ear reads the proclamation on behalf of the CVTC.

Councilmember Ear's comments – I just want you to know, we share in your pain, and many do as well. We really appreciate you being here. Miss Alice Chulan comments – I thank the CVTC for the annual heartfelt and thoughtful remembrance of the Armenian genocide, as well as other genocides. I want to acknowledge the educators and others who are doing mentoring in the community. I see our superintendent here this evening, and I appreciate the GUSD talking about genocides and educating our kids. They talk about the 10 stages of genocide, and the last stage being denial. It's through them, and others like them, that can teach and help prevent genocides in the future. I can't thank you all enough for having me here, and for the genuine proclamation. President Leon comments – Thank you being here, saying those words, and we appreciate all the contributions and efforts of our Armenian Americans, not only in La Crescenta, but in the United States. So thank you for being here again, and also thank you to Councilmember Ear for that wonderful presentation.

- b. Youth Council – Selene gave the following updates – We have two committees on two different drives. One is for an art contest (second one coming up for this year), and the other a spring cleaning drive. Both of which will be in the month of May. This will be a spring clean-up drive for a lightly used clothing drive. Our next meeting is May 11th.
- c. Sheriff – No update given
- d. Fire Department – no update given
- e. CHP – Office Cooper gave the following updates – Introduced Office Keller who will be Mr. Cooper's replacement moving forward. Officer Keller and Cooper have been working on the stats. Officer Cooper has the stats to provide the numbers but appears to be logged off and Officer Keller does not have the numbers on hand to relay – President Leon asks a question – I've noticed a couple of new officers on the freeways. What is the total addition that it added to our sector? Officer Keller answers – Over the last year we got about 11 new CHP officers. That is an approximate number, may not be exact, but there were a new handful of CHP officers to help with traffic. Officer Cooper gave the following collision stats for March – Collisions total 7, and of those 5 were for property damage only, 1 injury, and one hit and run (property damage only; no injuries for the hit and run collision). The radar trailer is back and on La Crescenta Ave. Will be there for approximately a week and then will be moved to another location. The radar might be moved over by one of the schools, where they are starting to get a flow of traffic, unless there are suggestions for a better location to put it. With school back in session, Officer Keller and Cooper are going to go around to the schools next week and talk to them

and figure out if they have any specific problems they want the Officers to address. The CHP office is now open and you do not need to call from the front parking lot anymore. Rather, you can come in one at a time to the front office, if you have issues to deal with at the CHP office. They are also open for car seat installation, again on Wednesdays, but by appointment only. If someone wants a car seat installed, they can just call the office, and make that appointment, and it will be scheduled for the first Wednesday available. The month of April is distracted driver awareness month, so we are focusing on distracted driving. For comparison, in April 2019, CHP issued 19,850 citations for distracted driving. Stay off your cell phones to avoid a citation. The month of May will be motorcycle safety month. We want to remind people to be alert for motorcycles and share the road with them. Also, the DUI check point will be scheduled for the month of May. The location will be announced but it will be out of the area, in the Altadena area. Lastly, this is Officer Cooper's last month as the Community Officer. Officer Keller is again introduced. Moving forward, for traffic concerns, you can call the office and ask for Officer Keller. The office number is (626) 296-8100. Officer Keller – I'm the new community relationships officer and I'm looking forward to working with you to help our community stay safe and be proactive in keeping it safe. President Leon– It is nice to meet you and we can, and when everything is normal, we can introduce you to our Council and the community. Thank you, Office Cooper, for all you've done for the community. Thank you for all the hard work, and the special attention given to the community. There is a request in the chat to repeat the CHP phone number. Office Cooper comments – it is (626) 296-8100 and states he will still be around for any issues or questions, just not working the community portion any longer.

- f. CV Chamber – No update given.
- g. CV Water – No Update given
- h. CV Cert – No updates given
- i. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given
- j. CVCA – Mr. Michaels gave the following updates - Upcoming CVCA meeting next Thursday, it will be on the 22nd of April. We are busy, and dealing with many housing issues. There will be more land use issues with the housing elements for Glendale, La Crescenta, and Los Angeles on the agenda. Notice was received today that there is a new 78 unit apartment project on Foothill that is being put on the site of the old Trader Joe's location. It appears Foothill Blvd. is seeing a lot more development and will try and work with the LUC to share information. The next meeting will be next Thursday evening at 7 o'clock via Zoom.
- k. GUSD – Superintendent Vivian Ekchian provided the following updates - I'm pleased to share for the last 3 weeks or elementary students who wanted to return to in person instruction have been back. Started on March 29th with the Pre-K to 2nd grade and then on April 5th with 3rd to 6th grade and we are hoping on April 26th that middle and high school students will be returning on campus, for those that wanted

in person instruction, and we're continuing virtual learning. I'm also pleased to report that we're in the orange tier now and hopefully moving in three weeks to yellow, to be able to offer in person graduations. Still exercising social distancing and wearing masks, but with a larger number of family members and extended family, conducive to graduations. In light of that, tomorrow, we are partnering with Glendale Memorial offering Pfizer vaccinations to our graduates, and 2 of their family members, or individuals invited to the graduation, to get one. As of 4 o'clock this afternoon, 1800 individuals already signed up. We hope to get more and more people vaccinated, so by the time we move into graduation time, we'll have more and more vaccinations. GUSD Board member Jennifer Freeman gave the following updates – Athletics have begun, we are competing and having football games. We are starting very slowly to have a small number of spectators, but it's still exciting for some of our parents to have the opportunity to see our kids playing sports again. Superintendent Ekchian – if a student was vaccinated, family members can also get a vaccination. The sign-up is still available. The more members of the community that take advantage of vaccinations, the happier we are. We've reached out to Verdugo Hills Hospital, and are working with them. It's not letting you sign up Adrian, so yes, you may. I have your email address and as soon as I'm finished speaking, I will connect you with Stacy Toy, who is helping facilitate, to get you registered for a vaccination tomorrow. We're hoping to bring all students back in the fall. I really appreciate you having us here, and I hope everyone is happy and staying safe. We are thrilled to share that we did sign our MOU, with the teachers association. President Leon comments - Thank you very much, and thank you for all the hard work, it was a very difficult year. We appreciate all your hard work. Please give our regards to the entire staff and the teachers union. We thank you again for being here, and we are all looking forward to getting back to normal. Let us know if you need anything, and we always look forward to collaborating with you.

- I. Land Use Committee – Inez Chessum gave the following updates – We have a little more info on the LA County housing elements proposals. There are 31 or 33 lots that have been selected in order to increase density. It would be roughly a total of 1,175 additional units added to our community. We are not very happy about this. They are concentrating it all on Ocean Blvd. and Montrose Avenue. We are trying to figure out the best approach towards responding to their findings. They have asked us to propose alternative sites. We feel that is not appropriate and difficult to propose without having some planning studies. We are working with the CVCA to come up with some responsible solutions. They need to increase density, so they raised the minimum for lots across the board. It's not really compatible with our community at all. We have been in communication with the planners doing this housing update. They are working on an ordinance, that you can build housing on commercial property by right. That means there is no public hearing. The ordinance went into effect on April 8th and it includes some development standards for

residential projects on commercial zones. They are still trying to work out what the zoning regulations would be for development that is only residential, in areas that are commercial. Typically, it's been multi-use, which means the ground floor remains commercial, and then above is residential, which is preferred. Now they are allowing for it to be total housing, and not just lower floor commercial and upper floor residential and they're figuring out what the requirements are for that. The County has stated that no matter what, our CSD stands, and does apply to any new development that comes in. The CSD regulates R3 lots, and address all commercial development along the Foothill Blvd. corridor. We have big concerns about the minimums that are being imposed as they are increasing the density. This is the first step and they still need to do environmental reports and traffic analysis and all the studies that go along with increasing density. They say they will look at this once the plans get developed, but once it's zoned, it's really an uphill battle. We now have Victoria as our new liaison to Laura Friedman's office. She was at our meeting. We had Blake before Victoria if you'll recall. There are 30 bills currently in the County Assembly, and there seems to be no end to the increase in housing coming towards us. We voiced concern that over densification is not the right type of development for our community. We're hoping to write a letter and that will probably happen later. The development project at 2434 Foothill Blvd., on the corner of Foothill and Sunset (South side of Foothill) – their proposal is for a four story, 31 unit apartment building, two level subterranean garage, 3 affordable units out of the 31. This is by right. No public hearing required. For this project, our best hope is to work with the developer. Work on proper setbacks. We are working with the planners. I am in communication with planner, Elsa Martinez. I have a zoom meeting this coming week. They need to meet our CSD and we need to relay that message. The presentation was published and we didn't have any community come to express their thoughts or concerns. It's by right, but the developers are working with us so they can meet the requirements of what the CSD is requiring. We haven't seen the final drawings, as they're still in the process of meeting the requirements, which they haven't fully met at this time. Any questions on that? That is all. Thank you.

8. Community Announcements (2 minute)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates - We are opening for limited in-person services beginning next Tuesday. We will be moving to a Tuesday through Saturday schedule. We will still offer side walk service. It will be exclusive on the first hour of service but people can call throughout the day if they don't want to come in and we'll have their items checked out and ready for them at the door. Limited in person services, mask mandates apply, social distancing applies. Building occupancy is limited to 30 customers in the library at one time. Because of the way the computers are configured, about half of them had to be removed, so there is a limited number of computers available for use. As a result, computer usage time has

been reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour a day. Please let me know if anyone has any questions.

- b. Park & Rec - No update given
 - c. American Legion – No update given
 - d. Prom Plus – No update given
 - e. Fire House/ Mary O’Keefe - No update given
9. CVWD General Manager Update on CV Water District’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – David Gould, Chief Engineer, is presenting on behalf of Mr. Ochoa. Thanks Council and Community for coming out tonight. Director of Engineering for Crescenta Valley water district. Has been the Director of Engineering for 24 years and understands the community very well. He then presents on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. [Director Gould takes over the share screen for presentation, titled, CVWD Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated April 15, 2021] I’ll provide a little bit of background on what we’re going to talk about tonight, elements of LHMP, Steering Committee put together, goals and objectives, type of natural and man-made events that could happen, the survey we did with the community, projects coming up, and show CVWD’s mission statement to provide quality water and wastewater and what our vision is. A little background, CVWD is working with the California Government of Environmental Services and FEMA to look at grant funding for emergency preparedness. There are grants available through the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Currently, FEMA is looking at writing 3.7 billion of grants available nationwide, to communities to help with mitigation or pre-mitigation disaster to put together infrastructure in place during an event such as an earthquake or wildfire. For us to be eligible, we need to put together the LHMP. The LHMP outlines potential high priority hazard areas or vulnerable infrastructure that could be at risk during a man-made event, such as earthquake or wildfire. CVWD applied for the grant in 2019 and was approved in April 2020. The total approved grant was \$166,653. CVWD is responsible for 25% of that amount - \$41,663. CVWD retained Tetra Tech to prepare the LHMP. The first thing we had to do was put together a steering committee. This committee was made up of community members and local agencies. We have been meeting regularly and the meetings are open to the public. The meeting minutes are available on our website, cvwd.com. We are developing a mitigation strategy, concentrating on water and sewer systems. We looked at developing a plan to understand the risk and vulnerabilities for a detailed risk assessment plan. We looked at what vulnerabilities we had and we prioritized the hazards that occur within the area. Prepared maps that delineate areas affected, based on seismic studies in the LA County region. Then we review what our assets or inventory are, and if there is something we can do to improve it, so if this event happens, we’re prepared. As we move forward into the future, we maintain and monitor plan, as it is a living document, and it will change. When putting together the steering committee, an email request for involvement from the community was sent out. There are 11 people

on the committee. Committee members named: Sharon Raghavachary, Harry Leon, James Bodnar, Pual Dutton, Ken Herman, Doug Caister, Shahan Atmajian, Brian Hodge, Michael De Ghetto, Dan Hardgrove, David Weeshoff. The LHMP's goals are to protect life and property, maintain continuity of essential water and sewer services, increase public awareness of the risk of loss of water/sewer service, facilitate partnerships with stakeholders in the Crescenta Valley, protect local water supply, protect against environmental consequences caused by water/sewer failure initiated by natural hazards. These were the goals set-up by the committee and then we put together objectives. Objectives - Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making sure CVWD's infrastructure, and critical facilities are intact, protect water quality and supply, making sure safe and clean water is not contaminated with bacteria, address aging infrastructure (pipelines being 50 years old), raise awareness and communication in Crescenta Valley Community about what to do in the event of a disaster, to get water or have sewer system work, leverage grant funding out of the \$3.7 billion to implement hazard mitigation capital projects and help the community, establish policies to ensure mitigation projects are for critical facilities, and create and preserve local ecosystems to serve as natural hazard mitigation functions. We look at different types of hazards. Hazard Examples – Earthquake, Wildfire, Flooding, Climate change, Drought. Human Caused - Terrorism. Then we did a public outreach survey on the most important issues and sent out over 7,000 emails. We asked you, residents in the Crescenta Valley, what are the most important issues to you? Where customers get their information about emergencies, and how informed customers are on CVWD's mitigation and preparedness efforts? All the feedback was reviewed by Steering Committee and posted on the CVWD website. A sample of survey results reflects in graph form the natural and man-made hazards experienced or most affected by, with pandemic and wildfires, having the highest percentage of responses. We also asked, how prepared are you for a big disaster? We need people to be prepared and ready for a disaster. Where do you get your resource information? This allows you to see where most people get their information from and now we have a better idea of those sources. A lot of information is from the internet and the news. Then we asked, how prepared do you think CVWD is, and the poll said 49% prepared. We look at the 38% percent that says we're somewhat prepared and we would like to do a better job. We want to know the best way to communicate with the customers if there's a water quality issue or there's a water outage on the street and the highest percentage responses were email and text messages. We're preparing an automated meter reading system, so we can ready your meters, and you can go through the portal to see water usage, and allows us to contact you regarding any emergency and quickly get information to you. The preliminary risk assessment results reflect a little of what we already knew. Wildfires were very high on the list, and the same for landslides, as a result through earthquake, or movement of other rocks. As you can see from the slide, wildfires puts the most of our assets at risk. We saw happened in 2009, and we looked at that to gather further information. Theses

disaster can affect the water side or the sewer side of CVWD. We took all that information, and came up with things we can do now to help out the community. Some things we came up with were: Four new portable emergency electrical generators, Station sites to move water to higher elevations, new seismic sensors, emergency preparedness education sites and refilling station at Rosemont Reservoir. We want to use FEMA grants to fund some of these projects. So what are our next steps, and where do we go from here? Our next steps are: Circulate plan internally for review, post draft plan for 2-week public comment period, plan submitted to CAL OES and FEMA for approval, after approval then adoption by the board, send adoption resolution to Cal OES. Also, on Wed. April 21st, we are having the meeting about the mitigation plan. There will be a more in depth report presented then. Everybody can join, and it will be via Zoom. Miss Liz Benbrooks asks a question - We don't pay our water bill, we rent, is there a general notification that we can get, as we typically don't get those. Mr. Gould answers – You can call us so we can add your name to our email distro blast, or please go to our website and email us. President Leon comments – Thank you very much for the hard work, and thank you very much for all you doing around the community. I see the infrastructure being done on a daily basis, and you are all doing a great job.

10. Paul Marquez Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Deputy – District #7 Director of Planning Goods Movements and Local Assistant. Will Present an Overview of the Ambassador Program to the Council and the community. President Leon comments – Thank you for coming here on such short notice, and doing this on a quick turnaround, we appreciate it. Mr. Marquez comments and begins presentation – The pleasure is mine Harry, and through more research, got to know the CV area better. I want to talk about the City Ambassador Program. This program is really an effort to reach out and learn more about the communities and engage with them more. Let them know of the activities we have or answer any questions they have. Cal Trans is trying to focus more on community engagement, not just the freeways. The City Ambassador Program – Foster communication to strengthen partnerships by: Understanding and meeting the needs of the community, steady communication with partners to plan/maintain/operate/sustain to deliver transportation improvements, leadership development in communication and organizational awareness (internally). District 7 is comprised of: 42 Freeways and Highways, 98 cities, 10.9 million people, 598 elected officials, 145 contracts worth \$2.1 billion, and 40 construction projects. There are district deputies for each district, which covers about 10 jurisdictions. I'm actually the deputy district director for planning and local assistance. La Crescenta is unique, being that it's unincorporated. We are mostly geared towards cities, but we also do work a lot with the counties. It's my pleasure and honor to be your ambassador. I'm here to answer your questions, and provide information about what's going on in your area. Some Discussion Topics: Address homelessness and actions re: EO n 23-20, SB1 Local Assistance and Grants, equity and small business engagement, maintenance/permits/agreements, relinquishment and excess lands, collaboration with

regional sub regional partners to develop all modal transportation improvements. Pathway to Collaboration – In Re: Homelessness (which is a difficult topic, especially with the pandemic) - Minimize number of encampments and encamped, maximize use of parcels for shelter, work with partners to add value to their ongoing efforts to transition unsheltered to shelter and house. We've made some progress working with cities like Los Angeles in dealing with this difficult situation. The Encampments and Tents on State Right of Way – LA County (People 1,690 and Tents 2,236), Ventura County (People 27 and Tents 35). The governor views this as a crisis, and something we need to tackle. It's not just us, we have successful partnerships that we work very closely with. As examples, Department of Mental Health, LA County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Chrysalis (employment), 211 (short term motel stays), community based organizations, and Social Security Department. As your ambassador I can be available for meetings to talk about certain issues affecting your community. Questions – Miss Melanie Traxler Comments – I Didn't know Cal Trans was working on homelessness, but it's important, and good to be proactive on. Miss Traxler Question – I have concerns about illegal dumping, and the trash issue that seems to be getting worse. Mr. Marquez answers – Yes, we are aware of it, and it's also a big concern of ours. Our main issue there is that we are understaffed. We try and pick it up, but then it's a back in a couple of days. We've wanted to promote the Adopt-A-Highway program a little more. So the community can also work with us to help with illegal dumping. So yes, we are aware of it, we have surveys online on the Cal Trans website, or just call me If you see any immediate concerns. Always reach out as needed. President Leon comments – The CVTC has our streets and transportation committee, and they would love to hear from you. Maybe you could even do a presentation at their meeting. Thank you very much for coming, glad to have you, and we appreciate all your hard work.

11. Public Comments

Public Comments and Community Announcements: This is for non-agenda items only. Please submit a speaker card to the President or Vice President. Speakers are allowed 2 minutes. Council may ask questions or respond to the speaker but there will be no debate or decision. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee for investigation and report.

1. Miss Catherine DeRidder – I like more info on the censure of Mr. Brookbank.
2. Miss Melanie Traxler – I'd like more information on what happened with Mr. Brookbank, so anything that can be publicly shared. I feel it would helpful to get a better understanding of what the CVTC does for the community. I see all these committees and I'm not sure what all of them exactly do, and what the goals for each are. It might help the community to get a better idea on what everybody does, so maybe a presentation could be done about all these committees and organizations.
3. Sandy - I'm wondering if anybody responds to the emails sent to the CVTC website? I've asked questions, and nobody answers. President Leon answers, they come to me, but I haven't seen anything. I generally

respond via email or I'll call directly. Can you please resubmit your questions? Miss Sandy responds – Yes, I will send another question.

4. Miss Liz Benbrooks – I was wondering what materials can be publically released on Mr. Brookbanks censure. What does the process look like? I haven't seen anything addressing what the process looks like or entails

12. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Donna Libra provided the following updates. **Motion** to Accept the treasure report distributed by Donna. Councilmember Lewin moved to accept. Seconded by Councilmember Ear. Approved Unanimously
- b. Investigation Committee Report – Councilmember Ordubegian gave the following update – After the committee redacts certain contact info, we will post the report on the Town Council Website. I've spoken with Mr. Brookbank, and he will also be posting the report. How did we get to the report – Several complaints that were received from community and council members about various Bylaw violations. The Bylaws have very strict procedures on complaints are to be handled and kept confidential. If the violations are serious enough, than a special meeting is called and an investigative committee formed. The vote to form the committee was approved unanimously by all Council Members in attendance. The Committee has 30 days to review the issues, and compile a report that is submitted/presented to Council at another special meeting. Three members were then selected, and they conducted their investigation for 30 days. I feel they did a good job, and issued a 19 page report of their findings. This was circulated and presented at a special meeting held on Monday night. Mr. Brookbank was also there, and gave a very honorable response. The Council ultimately voted unanimously for a 2 month censure, ending June 30th. That report and censure notice will be a part of the report that is posted, after names are redacted.
- c. Scholarships – Councilmember Yu gave the following update - Scholarship applications have been sent out to our two local high schools (CV and Clark). The deadline is April 30th for receipt of applications. President Leon Comments - Let's post this on our website and Facebook. Can we extend the deadline if need be? Councilmember Yu responds – Let me talk to Councilmember Sophal to see if we can extend the deadline another week.
- d. Correspondence: Councilmember Ear provided the following update – Nothing in the mail of note.
- e. Streets and Transportation: No update given
- f. Councilmember Stupakis provided the following update - We received a commitment from the County for the amount of \$5000. This will help out a lot with scholarship. We are also looking at having a Pancake Breakfast, possible at the county fair, but we're not exactly sure when that will be or if it will still happen. We are also looking at having it possibly in the fall, maybe at CV high school, but they

still aren't issuing permits for any outside activities yet. So, we need to wait to see if we can do the pancake breakfast, we aren't sure as of yet, but we're hoping to have the Pancake Breakfast this year.

13. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.