



General Council Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Via Zoom Call

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:00 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by Mr. Mike Baldwin
3. Invocation: Led by Mr. Mike Baldwin
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Lewin, Rodriguez, Ordubegian, Kilpatrick, Rabinov, Libra, Stupakis, Hoffman, Yu and Brookbank.
5. Approval of June Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Ear. Seconded by Councilmember Lewin. Approved Unanimously.
6. Approval of Amended August General Meeting Agenda **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Rabinov. Seconded by Councilmember Stupakis. Approved Unanimously.
7. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
  - a. Youth Council - Presentation/Award given to community member Tristen Midgley, for his work on the project for CV United Methodist Church. His father, Andrew Midgley, accepted the award on behalf of his son, and gave the following comments - The Boy Scouts have incredible leadership, and this was never more apparent than during the pandemic. Where concepts like virtual scouting became the norm. Community involvement went up, but had to be done more individually than in group settings like in years past. The Eagle Scout Project, when completed by Scouts, will likely be the most involved community project in their lives to date. To give you an idea of the involvement of our Eagle Scouts in their community, consider that in 2019 there were around 61,000 Eagle Scouts, who logged over 8.6 million hours of community services, which equates to a value of around 218 million dollars of service. You can help the Scouts by knowing the projects we're working on, and by

being a resource for Scouts who are deciding how they can help their community. My son's project brought the community together in ways he had not foreseen. People offered to help in many ways during those hot summer days, many times people we didn't even know. Another Eagle Scout wanted to donate coats to a local homeless shelter. His goal was to donate 50 coats, 25 of which he would buy/collect. When told to think bigger and get the community involved, he ended up donating over 300. Another Scout is working with Glendale to improve a trail in the CV Park. Just by being aware of a Scouts project, and either directly helping, or spreading the word to others, you can make a Scouts project that much more successful for the community as a whole. In November we'll be doing a food drive to try and raise food for those in need. At times, these drives have produced a year's supply for a food bank. If you know of a Eagle Scout Project, or a local service project, please reach out to your local troop to make them aware of the possible project/service. The quickest way to do that, is to go to [Beascout.scouting.org](https://www.beascout.org). President Leon made the following comments – We really appreciate all the hard work on these projects for the community, and we have always enjoyed working with the Scouts. Keep up the great work, and let the Council know how we can be of service. Miss Dede Mueller comments - I've been involved in The Boy Scouts for over 25 years, and have a lot of experience finding and approving Eagle Scout Projects. if any of the Scouts need any ideas or somebody to run an idea by, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

- b. Sheriff – No update given.
- c. Fire Department – No update given.
- d. CHP – Officer Keller gave the following updates – Total of 6 “TC’s” (Traffic Collisions) in the area, and 2 of the TC’s had injuries(6 people total). There was one hit and run included in that. No pedestrians involved in any TC this month. The prior month, we only had 2 TC’s. It has been a very busy month preparing for the start of school. We’ve received emails with questions and concerns. We’ll do our best to be present around the schools and high traffic areas. More pedestrian traffic, more people driving to school, so be careful driving/walking. Adhere to all signage in general, but especially speed signs around high traffic areas to school. There will be special units in the area to enforce violations. Please continue to email me with your concerns, and I’ll do my best to answer/address. Places his email address in the chat window. President Leon comments – We appreciate all your work out there to keep the community safe, and let us know if we can assist in any way.
- e. CV Chamber – Mr. Baldwin gave the following updates – 911 motorcade will be on 9/10 so we can go by the schools. The map of the route will be posted in the cv weekly. Takes about an hour, and we go by each school. Starting Time/Location - 9 a.m. at Ralph’s parking lot. On 9/18 we have the Hometown Country Fair at CV Park (bottom of Dunsmore Ave.) There will be an antique car show by the Early Rodders, and hopefully lots of vendors. It should be fun. Golf Tournament was last weekend,

it had 60 players, it went well, and some of the money goes towards scholarships for our kids.

- f. CV Water – Mr. Ochoa gave the following update – Water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell are at record lows. These two reservoirs are fed the Colorado River, and about 1/3 Full/Empty. This is the lowest level since Lake Mead was built after Hoover Dams construction in the 30's. We are looking for the community to help increase their water conservation efforts. In addition CVWD will be moving to Stage 2 next week, which calls for watering to be done every other day, and before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. CVWD will be distributing information on conservation via our website and other locations.
- g. CV Cert – No update given.
- h. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given.
- i. CVCA – Mr. Michaels gave the following updates – CVCA next meeting will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. We'll be discussing various issues, including various housing issues from the County and Glendale. Glendale hasn't released much information on their housing element. There was a study session before their City Council, and we hope to have more information very soon. We'll be following local development projects including: 3810 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, 3411 Foothill Blvd., and an affordable housing project on Pioneer. We'll be following the Eagle Canyon and Verdugo Wash Projects. We will be hosting a community event about the Verdugo Wash Project at the American Legion Post #288. Which was the site for the 1934 Flood. We are hopefully we can meet back in the Library soon. Mr. Baldwin asks a question - Is there a date you'd the American Legion Hall. Mr. Michaels responds – I will coordinate with participants and get back to you.
- j. GUSD – Superintendent Vivian Ekchian gave the following updates - Thank you for supporting the re-opening our schools. We are adhering to all Public Safety guidelines/protocols, and we are focused on keeping our kids safe. We are offering free COVID testing 5 days a week at our schools. We have partnered with Albertson, to give out vaccinations to anybody who wants one. As stated before, we're following Public Health Guidelines and requiring masks to be worn while inside. Masks are optional while outside but we highly encourage them to wear them. We've tried to make the school experience as normal as we can for our students. We will be sensitive to all grades levels and how they'll adjust coming back to school. Some have never been to school in person. Mental health and wellbeing is very important, and we'll continue to provide programs/help that focus on mental health. If we have a Covid case, we have strict guidelines on how to proceed. We have contact tracing, take home testing, school wide bulletins that we can send out as needed. We'll continue to do all we can to be as safe as we can. Yes the lines to get into school can be long, but they are for the safety of our students. We are very grateful to the Council, and to everyone who has helped with our kids and schools. We are requiring all staff to be vaccinated, or participate in weekly testing. We brought 25,000 students back, and that is great. Let's be optimistic and positive.

Many of our students are so happy to be back, and that is a great thing. We are so grateful to the community and all you've done during this trying time. GUSD Board member Jennifer Freeman gave the following updates – Full return to sports. Some of the testing is different and there are some masks requirements. So not the same as before, but we have a full return to sports, and that is great. Superintendent Vivian Ekchian comments – We've had 830 students who have opted for independent learning. Basically, we have the size of a high school in independent studies, most at the Elementary level. We've hired more staff, and redirected funds to accommodate independent studies. Question from chat - Some students (Valleyview) are having difficulty seeing the chalkboard with the desk shields in place. Superintendent Vivian Ekchian responds - We've implemented this precaution at mostly the Elementary school level, and it based on the recommendation by our experts. This is an extra level of safety for our younger students who don't have access to vaccinations. This will be revisited in the very near future. If we learn that students can self-regulate, and adhere to social distancing and handwashing, then maybe we can eliminate it. We just wanted to start the school year off as safe as we can. President Leon comments - We thank you for all your work in the community, and being here with us today. We want to thank all the staff and faculty for all their work and resilience. Please let us know if you need our help.

- k. Land Use Committee – Miss Ines Chessum gave the following updates – No update given
- l. Metro Bus 90/91 – Transit and Operations Department staff from Metro provide information on the bus route changes in our area. Israel Marin introduces team, and shares his screen - Presentation titled - **Bus Service in La Crescenta/Montrose** - Goes over the new route, and the changes Metro has made. **New Line 90 Extension to North Hollywood Slide** - Line 90 and 91 lines were combined. This came out of a NextGen plan. The new line 90 extends to North Hollywood Station. We focused on commute patterns from the area, and this is how the plan was born. Operating from Downtown LA (First St.) to Sunland, and extended the route via Vineland to North Hollywood. There is a new line, 690, that services the area north of Sunland to Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink station. This began operation on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The stops will increase to every 20 minutes starting on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. We met with other public transit lines, like Beeline, and got their input on our changes and other possible ideas. All the route changes will be done in phases. We had to adjust our services during the pandemic, and we had a board motion recently to start to initiate full service again. **Outreach and Other Updates Slide** - We passed out service change notices, and also placed them on buses. Chloroplast signs were placed at all stops serviced by these lines. Target area ads to specific areas, including La Crescenta/Montrose, so long as we had their relevant contact info. As an aside, there is also the Express route 409 to DTLA. That is another line you can use to get

to DTLA. Councilmember Ordubegian makes a comment - I like the how the airport and North Hollywood station included in route 90 line, and I think that is a great service to our community. Mr. Marin comments – That was part of our goal, and what our studies showed would be a benefit we hope. We also hope that this improved line increases the amount of traffic we see in our Metro buses.

Councilmember Rabinov comments – Great improvements Israel, and I really like the one seat bus route, and the more expansive and improved route. Question from chat - Will we see an increase in ridership with this new line, or do you expect it to remain stable. Mr. Marin answers – As you know, there was a significant drop in metro line usage and travel in general during the pandemic. We need time to determine frequency, and that will help us determine what is the new normal. We have no intention of going back to reducing service levels. We want to increase the services and the routes we can provide. Councilmember Chris Kilpatrick - If a line isn't in operation, how do we get that back. Mr. Marin answers - It would take a motion from the Metro board to re-instate a line. There has been examples where the board has done studies to look into bringing lines back. So it is possible.

Councilmember Rabinov and others thank the staff from Metro for coming to make the presentation, and for all their hard work.

- m. Streets and Transportation – Councilmember Rabinov gave the following updates – Next meeting will be on August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6 o'clock, with the same zoom link. We'll be continuing to examine various streets and intersection in our matrix. We discuss areas of concern, and go over possible solutions with the County; such as speed bumps, signage, crossing guards, and bulbouts. Unfortunately Covid didn't allow the County to get an accurate traffic count study, and since school is back in session; the County will do another study in 6 months. This will hopefully improve its accuracy, and will cover a variety of high traffic areas in our community. **The Orange and La Crescenta Ave. Project** (Pedestrian improvement, pavement resurfacing, etc. etc.) - We'll be having discussions on next steps and design concepts. As well as looking at getting more feedback from the community on the Project. We received a few folks who are opposed to certain proposed bulbouts. Those were documented by the County and will be factored into the final decision making process. There was an excellent presentation by one of the residents on sidewalk improvement at Mountain Ave. Elementary School. It focused on the impact of car traffic and pedestrian traffic in and around the school. The County is now working with the resident(s) on a possible Feasibility Study for putting sidewalks on certain streets to/from the school. Metro Open Streets Grant Application will be discussed. The Grant Application was released in July, and workshop was on the 18th. We'll get an update on the workshop and next steps. Metro board will provide a timeline on when we can see some preliminary concepts on what the soundwalls could look like. The Foothill Blvd. Complete Street Master Plan and the Existing Conditions Report will be available in the fall. We'll get a better idea then about possible

recommendations and their proposals for future improvements. There might be an update on possible Measure M funding from Olga Cruz. They had a meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and we'll see if our community was incorporated into their funding plans. President Leon asks a question – For The La Crescenta and Orange Sidewalk Improvements Project, what outreach did the County do for that? Councilmember Rabinov responds – Yes, we posted a flyer at the Chamber, other locations, posted the flyer in the CV Weekly, the website, and other social and print media. The County is asking us to help them facilitate outreach for the community and residents who are making these requests. This is coming from requests to the County, and then the County is coming to us to help facilitate things. Some requests for this area were submitted 3 years ago. The County will make a presentation at our General Meeting on the proposed bulbouts, sidewalks, and other possible improvements. **Council agrees** that a meeting will be necessary for the community, and a presentation should be given at our General Meeting. Miss Kyle Studebaker comments and asks a question – Great presentation and work you're doing for the community, Desiree, Question - Who should we notify if signs are missing or damage. Councilmember Rabinov responds - Vision Zero is who you should be contacting, and I will pass along their contact information. Councilmember Ear comments – Moving forward, all committee meetings who use this zoom link can be recorded. This was stopped briefly, but now we'll be able to record all our committee meetings.

#### 8. Community Announcements (2 minute)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates – Everything is more or less much the same. The meeting rooms, still no word, but they are working on it. We are one of the busiest libraries in the area. The top three are Culver City, Diamond Bar, and us. Last month we had the most checkouts in the area. The Library hosted an outdoor concert. It was a success, and we had about 55 people who enjoyed the concert. We still have staff contact tracing, so we're not at full capacity. Community comments - How do you track the circulating of books. Is there a way to see that number. Miss Wiggins responds – Not really, these numbers all come from headquarters. We're circulating around 18,000 books a month. Pre covid, we were doing 25,000 a month, so we're not that far off. Also note, The Library is down around 7 staff members from our pre-pandemic levels.
- b. Park & Rec - No update given
- c. American Legion – Mr. Baldwin gave the following updates – Announces American Legion and VFW are hosting bingo night at Heely hall. It opens at 5, first game at 6. Everybody gets 4 cards, 10 games per card. This event is how we support or active duty veterans. We send them gift cards. Last year we sent \$2,000 to our veterans.
- d. Prom Plus – No update given.

- e. Fire House/ Mary O’Keefe - No update given.

## 9. 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.

- a. Friends of Rockhaven - We now have possible funding from the state. So we’re ramping back up again, and looking for community support. If you’re so inclined, write to the Glendale Council, who this is before, and let them know you feel this project is important to the community. We’re having a members meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3-5 p.m., but everyone is welcome at that meeting. We will be having a raffle drawing at the event, so if you have any items you’d like to donate, that would be very much appreciated. Anybody can come to the member meeting, and we’ll be offering tours of the grounds as well. If you want to learn more, please visit [FriendsofRockhaven.org](http://FriendsofRockhaven.org). President Leon comments – We support the Friends of Rockhaven and appreciate all the work you’re putting into saving this important historical location.
- b. Crescenta Valley Lions Club - Hosting a donation drive and partnering with the Los Angeles Department of Children’s Services. We will be putting together backpacks full of personal hygiene items, school supplies, etc. etc. This will be for kids in, and transitioning to/from the foster care program. The event is on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Email: [Lions91214@gmail.com](mailto:Lions91214@gmail.com) or you can reach out to me directly. Last year we had a lot support from the kids and other community members, and we hope to have the same participation this year. The donation drive will be at the parking lot at Ralph’s. It will be a drive-thru type of situation to try and make it as easy as we can on everybody. We are accepting donations, but they can only be new items. Last year we put together about 265 backpacks.
- c. Justin Hager - Shoutout to CV high school volleyball team and CV Sports in general. I’m asking for the community help in documenting some of the CV high school sporting events. I can’t be everywhere, so any help you can provide would be great. If you are at a CV athletic event, taking a picture, and sending a 3 sentence summary to me would be great. You can reach me at [justin@cvweekly.com](mailto:justin@cvweekly.com) . Please support CV athletics this year and go out and watch our students compete.

## 10. Council Business

- a. Treasurer’s Report: **Motion** to approve Treasury Report for July by Councilmember Lewin. Seconded by Councilmember Stupakis. Approved Unanimously.
- b. Southern California Edison – Councilmember Kilpatrick gave the following updates – In Re: Meeting on SCE Proposal to insulate around 6,000 miles of powerlines around the Los Angeles National forest area. The State said they couldn’t cover all of those

costs, but could cover the costs for around 3,000 miles of powerlines. This hasn't been voted on yet. Everybody that was at the meeting was for insulating the entire proposed lines by Edison. It's my recommendation that we write a letter to the State and our local Representatives to advocate for the community, In Re: Increasing the State's budget to allow for the insulation of all the powerlines. **Motion** to accept recommendation of Councilmember Kilpatrick to write a letter to the State and local representative by Councilmember Ordubegian and Seconded by Councilmember Lewin.

- c. Correspondence: Councilmember Ear provided the following update – Nothing of note in the mail.
  - d. Outdoor Fitness Center at Two Strike Park – No update given.
  - e. Scholarship Committee: No update given.
  - f. Outreach Committee: Councilmember Lewin gave the following update – Lewin gave the following comments – We have got the ball rolling on the fundraising idea that Councilmember Kilpatrick and I had, In Re: Kids at CV High School coming up with a graphic design for a CV T-shirt or sweater. The community would then vote on their favorite design, and then could order the item and all the funds gained would go to the Scholarship Fund. Councilmember Stupakis gave the following updates – An email was sent recently about the various upcoming events that we'll be participating in. The events are: 911 parade on 9/10, Hometown Country Fair on 9/18, and the Octoberfest on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please respond on what event you'll be able to attend. Other events – Still working on Pancake Breakfast for some time in October, and the Christmas parade is for now on hold.
11. Announcements – President Leon makes final comments – Thank you to everyone for attending this meeting. I appreciate all the work each and every one of you do for the community. We have great community, and it's thanks to people like you that we do.
12. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.