



General Council Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2022

Via Zoom Call

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:01 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, Kilpatrick, Ahlers, Libra, Mueller, Baghdassarian, Madsen, Yu Not Present: Ordubegian and Barnes
5. Approval of March Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin, Seconded by Councilmember Kilpatrick. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of April Meeting Agenda, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Ahlers. Seconded by Councilmember Lewin. Approved Unanimously.
7. CVTC Presenting a Proclamation to ANCA – Crescenta Valley Chapter – The CV Armenian center in commemoration of 107th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Councilmember Baghdassarian reads CVTC proclamation of solidarity with ANCA, and hereby recognize April 24th 2022 as a day of remembrance of the 107th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The CVTC Proclamation is presented to Alice Chalian. Miss Chalian from ANCA accepts on behalf of ANCA and expresses their gratitude and appreciation for the proclamation and day of remembrance for the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by the CVTC. We are grateful for your leadership in the community. Thank you. President Leon comments – On behalf of the CVTC I'd like to thank you, ANCA, and other organizations for all your hard work on this issues, as well as other issues facing the Armenian community. We are here to support you.
8. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
 - a. Youth Council – Liaison Seline gave the following updates – I'm happy to report that we've had some events that have allowed us to update our bank account. We also have our t-shirt design contest that we voted on and the t-shirts are currently being printed. We had a bake sale on April 2nd in front of Ralph's that went very well. We had a book drive/book reading on March 26th at the Library that went well. We are currently working on a Jazz Night as an

- opportunity for our Youth to get involved, and have some fun with finals and AP exams coming up.
- b. Sheriff – Captain Rob Hahnlein gave the following updates – We had two aggravated assaults. One was a brother against brother incident. The other was a case of elder abuse. Two residential robbery attempts. Neither were successful. I’m hoping to put together information on making your home safer, and make your home not a target. We also had 4 vandalisms, 2 narcotic incidents, and 3 identify theft incidents. We had 157 citations issued. That is a 24% increase in traffic citations issued from last year. 12 larcenies, and 5 of those were Catalytic Converter thefts. We’re going to have another etching event soon. La Canada just had one recently. It went well and these events usually sell out. Trying to get better etching equipment to make the job easier. President Leon comments – We’ve seen an Increase in vehicle speeding on La Crescenta Ave., Briggs, Rosemont etc. etc. We’ve spoken with the CHP and hopefully the Sheriff’s department can also help out. Cpt. Hahnlein answers - We have two radar trailers with cameras that we could bring to your area. Just let me know where and I’ll try and get one there. Councilmember Ahlers asks a question – In the home robbery attempts, were the victims followed home or was it random. Cpt. Hahnlein answers – We don’t know as they were thwarted before a robbery took place. I suggest getting a ring doorbell if you don’t already have one. The ring doorbell can scare people away before anything is attempted, and the video can be used to identify those responsible. President Leon comments – I appreciate the charisma you’ve brought to the station in your time here. We look forward to working with you in the future Captain, and we know we are in good hands with you in charge.
 - c. Fire Department – No update given. Fire report was distributed via email. Please put the report on the website.
 - d. CHP – Officer Bay gave the following updates –
 - e. CV Chamber – Mr. Mike Baldwin gave the following updates – Hometown Country Fair will be on April 30th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a car show, food trucks, booths, and games. On May 13, 2022 the silent auction starts and will end on May 27. You can go to the website to see all the auction items and prices. On May 18th at 6:00 p.m., the Montrose and CV Chambers will have a mixer at the Woman’s Club. It will primarily be a networking/professionals/business owners mixer, and will cost \$10 dollars for members and \$15 for non-members. Both the CV Chamber and American Legion were honored for their volunteering efforts the last year by Parks and Rec. We received a certificate and had a nice lunch at Hart Museum Ranch in Newhall. It was an honor to be there.
 - f. CV Water – No update given.
 - g. CV Cert – Paul Dutton gave the following updates – I’m excited to announce an event - Your family Disaster Plan - that is being put on by the Emergency Preparedness Network, and will take place on May 7th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Woman’s Club. It’s free, and I can now offer you more training that we give you with Cert. Now I can go outside the boundaries of Cert’s curriculum and give you even more information. You’ll leave the event with a comprehensive Family Disaster Plan written by you but with our help through the entire process. It’s important to be prepared, and to have a plan in the event of a disaster/emergency. Losing power, or cell phone service going down can cause issues that you need to be prepared for. We’ll help you write a 30 day disaster plan in the 3 hour workshop. I have a wealth of experience and knowledge being your Cert coordinator for 21

years, Red Cross Volunteer/Ambassador/Supervisor, a Sheriff department trainer, a shelter operation guy. Also, Cert 24 hours is from June 11th through the 18th. It will be 8 hours on Sat, and then Tues/Wed./Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.. Then the following Sunday you'll have around 7 hours of more training before being Cert certified.

- h. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given
- i. CVCA – No update given.
- j. GUSD – Miss King gave the following updates - Dr. Ekchian couldn't make it tonight because she is at a Armenian Genocide remembrance event. It is organized by the Armenian clubs at our high schools. It's an important event, you can attend online, and it's also being recorded. CV Athletics – Softball team in in first place. We had CV Championships for the Basketball and Cross-Country teams. Clark Magnet School's robotic team is currently in Houston for the International First Robotics Competition. They drove their robot out there for the competition. In the practice sessions they were ranked no. 2. There is luck involved as you're partnered with another team(s). They are already in the top 25 percentile, and we are proud of them. You'll notice a lot of communication from us about Mental Health/Awareness coming soon. We have wellness centers to make sure our students are doing okay, socially prepared, and have a place to go to seek guidance/help. Mental health is important, and we are going to be focusing on it. President Leon comments – It is a pleasure to have you here, and we appreciate all the hard work you do behind the scenes. You do an incredible job.
- k. Land Use Committee – Councilmember Kilpatrick gave the following updates – It's good to see everyone here today, and to have most of the seats filled with members of our community. The L.U.C. tracks most major developments in La Crescenta/Montrose and tries to look out for the community as a whole. The County is looking to modify residential parking requirements for new developments and allow them to use street parking as opposed to onsite parking. Parking is already a problem in many areas, so we're making our concerns known to the County. There have been a few County workshops we've participated in. There is currently a survey that is available on the CVTC Website. I would encourage everyone to visit the website to learn about this issue and please fill out the survey. Nothing has been passed yet, so it's important to let your voice be heard now. SB9 was a State Law that went into effect Jan. 1st of this year, and allows developers to further subdivide single family lots for development. This would affect about a 1/3 of our community, and mostly the lots bordering Foothill Blvd. and in Montrose. Many of the lots above Foothill shouldn't be impacted by the law (fire zone). County doesn't have much of a choice because it's a State Law. The LUC is trying to minimize the impacts of this new law by amending our CSD to include residential areas, and put in requirements for building height, square footage, setbacks etc. etc. Currently our CSD only applies to Foothill Blvd. We sent a letter to the Supervisors office to allow us to work with regional planning to modify our CSD. We went to a land advisory meeting where they announced they are going to be rolling out SB9 and many ADU's. Mr. Baldwin asks – For SB9 and allowing 4 houses on one lot, is there a minimum sq. footage for each unit. Councilmember Kilpatrick answers – I believe it's 1,200 sq. ft. Follow-up question – Does SB9 address parking at all. Councilmember Kilpatrick answers – no I don't believe it addresses parking. Mr. Dutton asks a question - It seems that there will be more ADU's now with SB9 than people actually being able to have a lot big enough to support 4 unites. Is there language in SB9 on ADU's that has requirements

for setbacks and side yards. Councilmember Kilpatrick answers – The ADU ordinance came out a few years ago, and allowed owners to build ADU guest houses and Jr. ADU's. So you could essentially have 3 units on a property, which is different than SB9. There is language about side yards and setbacks in SB9 but the language is very general and can be interpreted differently. Community question – What are you doing to attract people to your website. This is an important survey, these are important issues, and I'm hoping you're doing all you can to get the information out there to the community using a variety of methods/avenues. Councilmembers Kilpatrick and Leon answer – We posted this on our Website, Facebook page(s), CV Weekly, e-blast, and the County also put out information to the community through their channels. Finally, the Land Use Committee meetings are the first Thursday of every month via zoom. Please come out and attend.

- I. Streets and Transportation – Councilmember Mueller gave the following updates – Complaint on Glenwood and Orange about speeding which we're going to look into. As mentioned at today's meeting, we'll be working with the county to tackle the speeding issues around our schools. April 27th is our next meeting via zoom. President Leon comments – it's important to do more outreach about this Active Transportation Project. Please stay on top of this issue and work with the Outreach Committee to get the word out there about this. We'll likely need to have more presentations about this. Councilmember Madsen comments – There is a lot of good information on the website and I think it can answer many questions people have. We should also try and do as much outreach as we can and find as many La Crescenta groups as possible and post the information there. We need to touch as many groups as we can to make sure we're disseminating the information as best we can. Councilmember Mueller comments – We should try and make sure that the people who respond to the survey actually live in the area. Councilmember Ahlers comments – My son works near Lowell, but it's doubtful he could ride his bike to work as he'd be too sweaty when he arrives to start his shift.

9. Community Announcements (2 minutes)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates – Welcome back to the library, it's good to have you back. Please remember to exit via the meeting room. We are currently open until 8 p.m.. We are open 7 days a week (60 hour weeks). The meeting room is now open for people to use.
- b. Park & Rec – Supervisor Jason Hauser gave the following updates – I'm the Supervisor at CV Park and also Two Strike Park. We have our ESTEAM Program (summer program) at CV park from June 13 – August 19. You can visit our website at parks.lacounty.gov and see what is going on at CV Park and other La County parks. You can also register for the ESTEAM program there. Special Events – On May 7th we're having Shakespeare in the Park. This will be at CV Park from 2 to 3 p.m. On May 26th we'll have Sunset in the Park from 6 to 8 p.m. We'll have more information soon but we plan to have things like music, meditation etc. etc. President Leon asks a question – Can you touch on some of the recent crimes that have occurred in the parks. Mr. Hauser answers – We had Graffiti at Two-Strike Park. Which is very rare. It was all over the bathrooms. When this happens we contact the Parks Bureau who will come out and take a report, and then the maintenance department will come out to clean it up. I'll follow-up with Sheriff's Park Bureau to find out any information I can on

crimes in our parks. An incident happened yesterday that I personally witnessed. I approached someone trying to break into a car at CV Park in broad daylight. So please remember to always lock your cars. My contact information Jhauser@parks.lacounty.gov and my office no. is 818 249 5940. I have an office at CV Park. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns

- c. American Legion – Mr. Mike Baldwin gave the following updates - Distributed over 600 Operation Gratitude packages to first responders. It was well received. Armed Forces Day on May 21st from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. We'll have a car show among other things. On May 30th at Two Strike Park, we'll have a Memorial Day ceremony starting at 8:00 a.m. Should last around 1 hour. On May 14th we are hosting the CVTC Prayer Breakfast and are excited to do so. We look forward to seeing you all there.
- d. Promplus – No updates given.
- e. Firehouse – No update given.

10. Los Angeles County Public Works – Shirley Lai, P.E. Associate Civil Engineer at LA County Public Works – To Present the Foothill Blvd. Active Transportation Plan.

Highlights – Shirley Lai and Sarah Ahmed show a presentation titled Foothill Blvd. Active Transportation Plan - Committee Outreach Workshop; First outreach event was in February so a lot of this will be repeat; The proposed plan will cover approximately 6 miles, and starts at Lowell in Glendale and goes to Oak Grove Circle in La Canada. La County is partnering with La Canada and Glendale for this proposed plan; The plan looks to transform Foothill Blvd. into an active transportation friendly corridor; We always want to invest in projects that the community needs and wants, which is why outreach is so important; A better plan proposal will aid in the securing of Grant funds; Active Transportation = Use of human powered transportation modes. Most common forms are walking or biking. Benefits – Reduce reliance on motorized vehicles, increased mobility options, and reduce environmental pollutants; Some potential options for this plan include Bike Lanes and Sidewalks (these already exist along Foothill but there are ways to improve both to make them more active friendly), Bulb-outs and high visibility crosswalks, Raised Medians with landscaping (traffic calming aesthetic measure) and wayfinding signs(ex. Signs to Descanso Gardens or Verdugo Hills Hospital); visit pw.lacounty.gov/tpp/foothillblvdtp/ to learn more information on the project/plan. There is a project overview, you can sign up your email address to get notifications about the plan, documents such as the Draft Existing Conditions Report (which you can leave your comments/thoughts about the on the page), community engagement – upcoming meeting/previous meetings/ Interactive Map (where you can leave comments about certain areas along the potential active transportation corridor; Planning a Walk and Bike Audit – To provide input through visual observation and familiarity on factors that affect walking/biking, walking audit will be limited to 1 mile round trip, last about 90 minutes, and no experience required. They will be looking to answer questions like: Is there enough room to walk safely, are there any obstructions or gaps, adequate lighting, most importantly... does it feel safe. The information gathered will help the planning group know of potential issues, concerns, and possible areas for improvement; Next Steps – Solicit community input on desired active transportation improvements along Foothill Blvd by gathering feedback from website submissions, host additional outreach events as the planning progresses, conduct walk and balk audits, and finally, develop active transportation improvements based on

community input. **Community Questions** – Does this project have anything to do with the project currently going on in La Canada near the YMCA. Answer – We are aware of the project, but it doesn't necessarily tie in with this plan/project; How much community outreach has been done. Answer – We reached out to various groups, contacts we had, flyers, our website etc. etc., but didn't go as far as fliers (which we're looking into). We want to do more outreach, get more feedback, and that is part of why we are here today. Again, we are in the very early planning stages, it's not even a project at this point. We want it to be a community driven project; Will Foothill Blvd. be reduced to 1 lane as part of his plan. Answer – No, we aren't planning to reduce traffic lanes nor take away parking; What was the origin of the project. Did you receive letters, emails about this. Answer – Yes, this has been on our radar for a while and it was initiated by members of this community; Will you be seeking feedback from other groups besides bicycle advocacy groups. Answer – Yes, we want to reach all members/groups in this community. The advocacy groups were contacted because they can provide valuable input for the bike audit. If you know of other groups we should contact, please shoot me an email for us to contact them; How does this benefit those that don't bicycle and use their cars to travel along Foothill. Answer – While there might not seem to be a lot of benefits for that sector of the population, this is part of an overall effort to try and move away from being such a car centric society; If at the end of your outreach you find that the majority don't want this project, will you still proceed. Answer – No, we want this to be community driven; We need to do more outreach in the community, so let's try and get the word out about this project so we get as much feedback as we can; Keep in mind that this community isn't flat, which is why you don't see many bicyclist on the road. You have to be really fit in order to ride much of Foothill. Answer – Yes we are aware of that, and it's something we are looking at it; Does this project already have funding. Answer – The planning part is funded by the County, but we currently don't have project funding yet. Having a really good plan will increase our chances to get grants/funding. President Leon – We appreciate you taking the time to come out this evening to give this presentation to our community. We appreciate your hard work to try and make this community better.

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.

- a. Thomas Savoni (Lives on Ramsdell Ave.) I'm here for a serious issue – The speeding around schools during the morning and afternoon commute. My dog was recently hit by a person speeding down Ramsdell Ave. Me and my family are traumatized by the incident. My son, who is also here today is distraught over his dog dying. I have video of people speeding down the street that day and other days. On April 5th in was a dog I've seen an increase in traffic and increase in speeding since I moved here in 2010. An elderly man was hit, a basketball player at CV high that was hit, a child was hit at Valley View. I've witnessed GUSD staff speeding. Almost every day we have an incident of people not stopping at signs and speeding. It's getting insane out there. We need protection on the side streets and more stop signs in the area. President Leon comments – We are working with Public Works to address this issue and we've brought this up many times to the County/CHP/Sheriff's

- department. There will be a traffic study done soon. We'll send this to our Streets and Transportation Committee to look into this issue as well. This is a problem, and we will look into this serious issue. Community member Jason Miller comments – People do fly down Ramsdell and it's really problem. It's dangerous out there. People are going too fast going up and down Ramsdell. We do need more stop signs to slow people down. Kids are walking on our streets all the time, and we need to make it safer for them.
- b. Nola - I also agree with what they are saying about speeding. It's very dangerous out there. I'm here today to talk about a LA county ordinance that just passed through the Regional Planning Commission. They are Title 22 and 16, and those ordinance will make it easier for them to install these wireless towers/poles without notification and on personal property. They are putting small cell towers/poles all over currently. This is going to bring a stronger internet connection not cell phone connection. Fiber optics are more reliable and provide a better connection than these wireless poles/facilities will bring. The FCC has no safety standards on these towers/poles what so ever, despite the fact that there are studies that show possible adverse effects of installing these in a community. Small cell towers are exempt from inspection. These are very dangerous in our area because of them being a fire hazard. We need to put together a concern letter to the Supervisors office. As an example, in Pittsfield Massachusetts people got really sick when these were installed. Two years later, they did a cease letter and it was finally removed. Now they are being sued by Verizon for taking away the cell tower. President Leon – We'll look into this and bring it up at our EC meeting. It's a serious issue, and we'll look into this further. Thank you for coming here today to talk about this, and all the work you've done on this issue. Councilmember Baghdassarian asks a question– Have you come across in your research where insurance companies are dropping their home owners insurance policy coverage for people with these on their property. Answer – I don't know about that specifically, but wireless carriers aren't covered by insurance because they emit pollutants.
- c. Justin Hager made the following comments – This will be my last meeting. I took a job as the Editorial page editor for the Las Vegas Sun. I will miss you all, but would just like to say... Please subscribe to the CV Weekly. Local newspaper are being decimated. The CV Weekly needs all your support. Personal level – I'm involved in the advocacy group Streets are for Everyone. It's not a bicycle advocacy group, but a street safety advocacy group. We focus on creating actions that slow down cars/traffic which in turn saves lives. As an example, there were 3 cyclist killed in a certain area of Foothill Blvd. They installed a bike lane and nobody has died since. There are many members of this community who do want active transportation options, me being one of them. Nobody in this community wants to bury a loved one, and these active transportation measures can save the lives of those who want to get out and be active in their community. Thank you for all your efforts and I've been proud to have reported on the CVTC and this community as a whole.

12. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Councilmember Libra reads the March Treasury report (distributed to the Council). **Motion** to approve February's treasury report by Councilmember Lewin. Seconded by Councilmember Kilpatrick. Approved Unanimously.

- b. Outdoor fitness center at Two Strike Park – No update given.
- c. Scholarship Committee – Councilmember Yu gave the following updates – 5 or 6 application this month. We still have time for more to come in. I'll keep everyone posted.
- d. Outreach Committee – Councilmember Baghdassarian gave the following updates – Coffee with the council on May 7th at the Ralph's parking lot. We plan to have information about the issues we're working on currently, and maybe some of the things we've accomplished. We created a flyer for this event, and it's been posted on the website and Facebook. We're working on a Mental Health Panel/Seminar. Oct 10th is mental health awareness day, so we're planning something for around then. President Leon – I'll reach out to the Supervisors office to see if she or someone from her office can attend. She's a big supporter of mental health and awareness. Councilmember Lewin reads a letter received from the Supervisor's office that our letter was received and she will have the County look into the pedestrian bridge issue at Two-Strike Park.
- e. Prayer Breakfast – Councilmember Ahlers gave the following updates – The event will be on May 14th at the American Legion Hall. The hall should have around 120 seats available. Tickets are already on sale. We will try and get donations for the food. Tickets will be \$30 per person. The speaker will be a local speaker. He's a charismatic speaker and it should be good. President Leon – I'd like for all of us to be there and to participate. This will help fundraising for scholarships and for our general account. Let's look into setting up Zel or Venmo for future events. We'll send the flyer to CV Weekly. I'd like to thank council members Ahlers, Lewin, Baghdassarian for all their hard work setting up and promoting this event.

13. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.