

# JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EL CAJON CITY COUNCIL/HOUSING AUTHORITY/SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE EL CAJON REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



## MINUTES

### CITY OF EL CAJON EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

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**December 22, 2020**

A Joint Special Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/ Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency, held Tuesday, December 22, 2020, was called to order by Mayor/Chair Bill Wells at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, California.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Council/Agencymembers via virtual platform: Goble, Kendrick and Metschel  
Council/Agencymembers absent: None  
Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair via virtual platform: Ortiz  
Mayor/Chair present via virtual platform: Wells  
Other Officers present via virtual platform: Mitchell, City Manager/Executive Director  
DiMaggio, Assistant City Manager  
Foley, City Attorney/General Counsel  
Cortez, City Clerk/Secretary

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG led by Mayor Wells and MOMENT OF SILENCE.** (The Courts have concluded that sectarian prayer, as part of City Council Meetings, is not permitted under the Constitution).

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

1. Emergency Allocation of Community Development Block Grant - CARES Act Funds

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council considers allocating CDBG-CV3 funds to implement a pilot program to provide air filtration devices to income-eligible residents to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection in the City of El Cajon.

## **DISCUSSION**

City Manager Mitchell provided information of the Item.

Councilmember Goble expressed concerned as the City of El Cajon is one of the two local cities with the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases. Councilmember Goble added that filtration systems, along with other preventive measures are recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Timeline to obtain the air filtration devices;
- Rate of infection in Senior Care Facilities;
- Timeline to qualify applicants and place the units in homes;
- Concern that no other San Diego County cities are considering a similar program;
- Information on size and cost of air filtration units;
- Can success be measured on the proposed program; and
- Concern of air filtration units being sold by recipients.

Michelle Sweetman submitted an online comment to express support for the idea of additional funding for local businesses.

Jo Alegria submitted an online comment to express gratitude for possible grant funding for the Cajon Valley Union School District.

Carol Lewis submitted an online comment in support of the proposed air filtration devices. In addition Ms. Lewis commented on a rally held on December 21, 2020, in El Cajon where people could be seen without masks or without respecting the social distancing guidelines.

John Bailey submitted an online comment to ask that the City Council do something about the ongoing homeless situation.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 1 – Continued)**

Stephanie Harper submitted an online comment to suggest that the City Council adopt a pre-requisite check, to confirm those running for a district election actually live within the district.

Councilmember Goble stated that the success rate of the air filtration systems would be gauged by bringing down the COVID-19 rates in the City. He added the filtration systems would probably be needed for several months. Councilmember Goble stated that those with limited income, and living in units smaller than 1000 square feet would benefit from the proposed program. He also added that the \$50,000 would come from unallocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Discussion continued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Using the \$50,000 for rental assistance in the near future; and
- Data not supporting the effectiveness of air filtration systems.

Vicky Lux submitted a comment, via the City Clerk's office to express concern of the increase in San Diego Gas & Electric utility bill if units are placed in homes.

City Manager Mitchell clarified that households who qualify for rental assistance also qualify for utility assistance.

Councilmember Goble stated he will continue to find a way to help those with limited income, living in the City of El Cajon, which has experienced high number of COVID-19 cases.

**MOTION BY GOBLE to APPROVE allocating CDBG-CV3 funds to implement a pilot program to provide air filtration devices to income-eligible residents to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection in the City of El Cajon.**

**MOTION FAILED BY LACK OF A SECOND.**

**Adjournment: Mayor Wells adjourned the Joint Special Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency held this 22nd day of December, 2020, at 10:54 a.m., to Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.**

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ANGELA L. CORTEZ, CMC  
City Clerk/Secretary