



City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council

Mayor Tim Sandoval
Council Member Rubio R. Gonzalez
Council Member Adriana M. Robledo
Council Member Cristina Carrizosa
Council Member Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole
Council Member Ginna E. Escobar
Council Member Robert S. Torres

VISION STATEMENT

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

Monday, May 22, 2017

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

Study Session 7:00 PM

6:00 P.M.

CLOSED SESSIONS

Public Comment:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

Part Time Unrepresented Employees
Unrepresented Group A and B Employees
Unrepresented Mid-Management Group C-2 Employees
Pomona City Employees' Association, a Chapter of Teamsters Local 1932
Pomona Mid-Management Confidential Employees Association (PMMCEA)
Pomona Police Officers Association (PPOA)
Pomona Police Managers Association (PPMA)

Labor Negotiators: Linda Lowry and Linda Matthews
Labor Negotiation as it relates to PERS

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION, City Initiating

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4))

One matter regarding possible litigation to be initiated will be discussed.

C. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)

One item of Property Negotiation regarding 2501 N. Garey Avenue will be discussed.

Property: 2501 N. Garey Ave.

Negotiating Parties: City of Pomona; Successor Agency

City Negotiator: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Assistant City Attorney Andrew Jared stated that the City Council convened into Closed Session at 6:05 p.m. and that the items listed on the agenda had been announced prior to recessing into Closed Session and reported the following:

Councilmembers Carrizosa, Ontiveros-Cole, Torres and Mayor Sandoval were present at the beginning of Closed Session.

Councilmember Gonzalez arrived at 6:12 PM.

Councilmember Robledo arrived at 6:20 PM.

Item A: This item was discussed, a briefing was provided, there was no final action taken, and nothing further to report.

Item B: This item was not discussed.

Item C: This Item was not discussed.

The City Council recessed from Closed Session at 6:55 PM.

7:00 P.M.**CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Tim Sandoval
Council Member Rubio Gonzalez
Council Member Adriana Robledo
Council Member Cristina Carrizosa
Council Member Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole
Council Member Ginna E. Escobar
Council Member Robert Torres

Staff Present: City Manager, Linda Lowry
Assistant City Attorney, Andrew Jared
City Clerk, Eva Buice
Deputy City Clerk, Genoveva Rocha

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sandoval led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Staff requested that the Public Comment of the Agenda be held after the presentations.

STUDY SESSION

1. Presentation and Discussion on Proposition 64 (Adult Use of Marijuana Act) and it's Impacts on The City of Pomona; Request to Obtain Direction from City Council
 - A. Staff Presentation
 - B. Catherine Branson, MPH, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, regarding "RAM: Rethinking Access to Marijuana
 - C. Christopher Kim, Better America Foundation (501c3), regarding "Educational, Crime Prevention, and Economic Benefits to Pomona"
 - D. Michael Coleman, M.A., Claremont Graduate University, regarding research on adolescent access and use in Pomona
 - E. Ariel Andres, student, Garey High School, regarding research on student attitudes to marijuana
 - F. Public Comment

Mayor Sandoval asked if there were any current examples of cities that have already started along this path.

Assistant City Attorney stated there was an article on the state of Colorado relating to the true impacts on the state of Colorado and the effects on public safety and the public.

Mayor Sandoval inquired, and Assistant City Attorney clarified that the plants a resident grows could only be used for personal consumption and not for sales.

Assistant City Attorney Jared informed that he had spoken with Mr. Kim and explained that by inviting him to speak before the City Council did not mean that the City or anyone from the City was supporting him as a favored business. There have been several conversations throughout the year, and he has a lot of information to share.

Christopher Kim gave a brief presentation to the City Council on the history of when marijuana became illegal; he spoke on banking; statistics of regulating the marijuana industry and on the different types of marijuana industries.

Councilmember Carrizosa inquired, and Mr. Kim informed that depending on the type of plant it can take four months to grow, six plants will not last four months, it can be cut and replanted and that Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) only allows the growing indoors.

Assistant City Attorney Andrew Jared presented Michael Coleman as the next presenter.

Michael Coleman, Master's degree student from Claremont Graduate University, gave a brief presentation to the City Council. He spoke on his research on adolescent access and use in Pomona.

Councilmember Robledo inquired, and Mr. Coleman informed that his focus groups covered synthetic marijuana and part of the questions asked were regarding exposure. He stated when synthetic marijuana came it was laced with regular marijuana. The youth knowledge of marijuana, the different products, and how it can be smoked was high. As a person trying to prevent use, you do not want to expose youth to new techniques during prevention, and that was the main reason why the research was conducted.

Councilmember Ontiveros-Cole inquired if Mr. Coleman had conducted research on Claremont or La Verne teens and she was concerned as to why his research only focused on Pomona teens.

Mr. Coleman stated that part of the reason his research focused on Pomona teens was that he works with several community organizations within the Pomona area. He stated he had a partnership with Positive Pomona and Day One. He stated another reason was his distinct interest in Pomona as a community. He has done volunteer work in Pomona, and that led to the interest of Pomona youth. He stated he had not done research on the Claremont youth, but he has done research with Glendora high school students and so far the results are similar.

Councilmember Ontiveros-Cole informed that the City of Claremont was already on board with the recreational use marijuana and research should be conducted in that area as well. She expressed that she felt the teens in Pomona were being targeted with the research being presented.

Mr. Coleman stated he was asked to present his research and that availability is already very high in Pomona when it comes to the issue of legalization that would increase. The increase of availability leads to an increase in use.

Councilmember Carrizosa inquired if Mr. Coleman had information on the economic impact on the City and how other business is affected if the youth is choosing to spend their money on marijuana rather than on other items.

Mr. Coleman informed that because the marijuana industry is a cash business and there is no regulation, it is difficult to track that information.

Mayor Sandoval asked for clarification, and Mr. Coleman explained that the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) is an organization that is made of federal, state and local law enforcement that was initiated by the State of Colorado in 2013 and that it was a neutral body.

Councilmember Carrizosa and Mayor Sandoval requested that copies of the documents discussed and presentations be emailed to the City Council.

Councilmember Gonzalez commented that he has a friend that is a teacher in Colorado and has shared how they are using the money from the sales of marijuana towards education and have gone tuition-free.

Katie Branson, Doctoral student at UCLA, gave a presentation to the City Council based on research conducted for her dissertation which focuses on the impacts of marijuana regulation from a public health perspective. She spoke on how marijuana is harmful to the youth, community concerns, availability, regulating, and how to fund enforcement.

Councilmember Gonzalez commented about the number of illegal dispensaries operating in Pomona. He stated he knows it is currently happening in the City.

Ms. Branson stated the map she utilized for her presentation was from Weed Maps. She expressed that the enforcement is very important and whatever law is put in place the capacity to enforce is important.

Mayor Sandoval asked Assistant City Attorney to comment on the illegal operating dispensaries in Pomona.

Assistant City Attorney Andrew Jared stated that the last illegal operating dispensary had been shut down about eight months ago. He stated that by looking at Weed Maps there appeared to be one; although there appeared to be a dozen that were delivery services, and that the number changes frequently. He also informed that often they would say they are in Pomona but are located in surrounding cities.

Assistant City Attorney Andrew Jared informed that Andres Ariel was unable to present to the Council but that his presentation would be provided.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Sandoval called Andrew Quinones to speak. City Clerk Eva Buice informed that he had to leave but that he was in support of a temporary ban.

Phil Reyes, Professional Organic Solutions, spoke on medical cannabis and alternatives to banking and funding.

Maribel Briseno, Youth and Partnership for a Positive Pomona, she requested that the City Council consider Staff's recommendation on placing a ban so that they can have more time to consider and review information.

John Cortes, Canna Cures, medical cannabis business owner, spoke on medical marijuana; he spoke on non-psycho active cannabis and the positive effects it has had on family members. He stated he would like to assist the City in putting together an initiative that gives back to Pomona.

Jason R. Begley, Canna Cures, spoke on medical marijuana and the positive effects of using cannabis for medical treatments; he spoke on a medical dispensary he has in Puerto Rico and his experience in operating the business.

Stephanie Gentry spoke about her personal experience with medical marijuana and the use of cannabis for medical treatment.

Chris Holliger, microbiologist, spoke on research conducted on medical marijuana and spoke on his positive personal experience of using cannabis oil to treat his cancer.

Judith St. John, Pomona, was not present to speak and did not indicate whether she was in favor or opposition.

Jason Beck, West Hollywood, spoke on medical cannabis and the positive effects in treating his cerebral palsy. He encouraged the City Council to take a tour of his medical marijuana dispensary to gain more knowledge on adult use.

Corey Nolan, Pomona, stated he is a security specialist that transports money for businesses. He expressed his support for marijuana because of the positive impacts it can have for those that need it.

Laura Santos, Pomona, stated her support for marijuana and spoke on the different uses. She also spoke on regulations that could be implemented by an Ordinance that will benefit the community and requested that the City Council move forward in support of cannabis.

CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Sandoval stated it was a big decision to decide in which direction to move forward.

Councilmember Robledo stated she felt it was necessary to have another Study Session with the Planning Commission to discuss how it will impact them.

Councilmember Carrizosa spoke on the business density and requested a map of the proposed Ordinances to the zoning code.

Councilmember Escobar stated she would like input from the Police Department and to look at the information available from El Monte and Claremont; she agreed that they should work in conjunction with the Planning Commission, Pomona Unified School District, and the local hospital.

Councilmember Carrizosa expressed that there was not enough time for meetings, but it was important to know their position.

Mayor Sandoval stated that the conversation needed to involve the community because they have to live in the City. He urged residents to let their neighbors know and that it was important for them to be engaged.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the City Council Chambers, 505 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, California. Closed Session items will be discussed at 6:00 p.m. The Open Session will commence at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

EVA M. BUICE, MMC
City Clerk/Secretary of the Pomona
Housing Authority

TIM SANDOVAL
Mayor/Chair of the Pomona
Housing Authority