

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, January 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California: Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City Officials and Employees present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present.

At 7:03 p.m., the City Council recessed into Closed Session in the Management Information Center of the Council Chamber at City Hall, with the following in attendance: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

2. CLOSED SESSION

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code Section 54957

Title: City Manager

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:47 p.m., and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.

When City Attorney Vasquez was asked if there were any reportable actions from the Closed Session, she stated that no reportable action had been taken.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Andrew Cisneros and Crystal Zambrano, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Andrew and Crystal participate well in the new virtual class everyday by turning on their cameras, participating through chat and raising their virtual hands. They are both respectful and have a good attitude about school. They both are overall great citizens of Denker Avenue Elementary School.

B. INVOCATION

Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Certificate of Recognition to George Nakakura in Appreciation of His Service to the Community as a Member of the Human Services Commission – *Certificate to be mailed to Mr. Nakakura*

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

B. PROCLAMATIONS – No Items

C. APPOINTMENTS – No Appointments were made

- (1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils, and Boards (Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn In)
 - (a) Human Services Commission
 - (b) Planning and Environmental Quality Commission
 - (c) Recreation and Parks Commission
 - (d) Senior Citizens Commission
 - (e) Gardena Youth Commission
 - (f) Gardena Beautification Committee
 - (g) Gardena Economic Business Advisory Council
 - (h) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Owner Representative
 - (i) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Tenant Representative
 - (j) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, At-Large Representative

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. WAIVER OF READING IN FULL OF ALL ORDINANCES LISTED ON THIS AGENDA AND THAT THEY BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

B. CITY CLERK

- (1) Minutes of
 - (a) **Approved:** Regular Meeting of the City Council, November 10, 2020
- (2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on January 22, 2021

C. CITY TREASURER

- (1) **Approved:** Warrants / Payroll Register
 - (a) January 26, 2021: Prepay: 161744-161745; Check Nos. 161746-161948 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$2,469,844.62; Total Payroll Issued for January 15, 2021: \$1,536,147.83.

D. CITY MANAGER

- (1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2021-02
- (2) **Approved:** ADMIN SERVICES - Authorize Purchase of Sophos Intercept X Advanced Endpoint Protection Cybersecurity Software from Teracai
- (3) **Approved:** GTRANS - Approve Agreement with Stantec Architecture Inc. for Design Services for a total of \$175,380.96 and Authorize a Project Total of \$192,919.06.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all Items on the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item 5.D.(2) and 5.D.(3):

Ayes: Council Member Francis and Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Members Tanaka and Kaskanian, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

5.D.(2) ADMIN SERVICES - Authorize Purchase of Sophos Intercept X Advanced Endpoint Protection Cybersecurity Software from Teracai

This Item was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis, requesting additional information as to how the software is going to protect us from hackers and if the contract included upgrades or are additional fees required for the upgrades. City Manager Osorio explained that the software is an antivirus for the entire city. He mentioned the city is constantly being hacked. This program allows our IT department to collect threats, hacks and be able to contain them to a very minimal level. As you have heard certain agencies out there that have been held ransom, using ransomware and then must pay hundreds to thousands to a million dollars just to release the sensitive information. The software is essentially able to deflect threats, hacks and it has filters so that our employees can do their jobs, go onto the internet, and detect certain websites that should not be visited. It is a well-rounded very effective anti-virus protection for the entire city infrastructure, not just individual computers but all our servers. As the agenda stated in 2017, we were attacked by a cyber threat and some damage was done but not too much. This software is one of the best in the industry, the contract extension will be a three-year contract. City Manager Osorio confirmed that the general fund is not being charged for this. In addition, City Manager Osorio confirmed that the contract includes any changes and upgrades for the next three years, unless it is something custom then it would be something extra but for the purpose of the specification that we have laid out to them for the next three years it is covered. I cannot imagine what that would be, this is pretty much a gold standard that we are buying here, but if we did custom programming then that would be something that we will need to talk about. Council Member Frances thank City Manager Osorio for answering all her questions.

Council Member Tanaka stated, "we did get a discount on the new contract" City Manager Osorio confirm, yes, we did. Council Member Kaskanian, asked in the case that we get hacked is the company are liable to pay the ransom in case they cannot get our data back for whatever reason or is there a limit to what they can pay? City Manager Osorio explained that they are insured but was unable to find the information. City Manager Osorio asked Council Member Kaskanian that he can research and get back to him and Council Member Kaskanian agreed. City Manager Osorio stated that it was a very good question. City Manager Osorio also, added that we do have cyber insurance. Mayor Cerda reiterated, if for some reason its not covered, then our insurance would then kick in, is that correct? City Manager Osorio, confirm, yes that is correct, also added that he will provide the entire council with a full report on what their coverages are, a scenario for instance if there was a ransom that we must pay, and what does that looks like.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, suggested some ideas and recommendations for the city with regards to the purchase of this endpoint protection cyber security software. First, has the city outreached to the FBI (Federal Bureau Investigations)? They have a program called "Infer Guard" which is a public- private partnership with the FBI with private companies, they usually are networking with big and small companies and businesses, they are advising them. It is a free service from the FBI, which is how to protect you from hackers, firewalls, and virtual private network. He encouraged the city to outreach to the local FBI office at the Wilshire Federal Building and speak to coordinator for information. Second, he believes the city insurance policy kicks in at three hundred thousand, so if a ransomware attack were to occur, he believes the city will have to pay if it were below three hundred thousand, so would the company offer a certain amount? Also, can this company offer a virtual private network connection for the wi-fi login system. If the city does launch in the future and hope the city can launch in the next few months, I would say 60 days to 90 days if can the city offer a city-wide free Wi-Fi, especially in our parks; can this company offer a similar wi-fi login portal system like that are found at hotels, McDonalds, and Starbucks. They all have their virtual private network connection, and we need free wi-fi on our buses. Some cities have partnered with T-Mobile and they are offering Wi-Fi on buses.

City Manager Osorio responded that the city has a partnership with the FBI, in fact when we were hacked in 2017 the first people on site were the FBI and they started their investigation. As far as the wi-fi and VPN, Sophos does not provided that service. We have our own fiber optic line that is running through our parks now. We are working through to see if we can provide that later. Sophos Security is strictly for cyber security, not for Wi-Fi, separate and different system.

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

5.D.(2) ADMIN SERVICES - Authorize Purchase of Sophos Intercept X Advanced Endpoint Protection Cybersecurity Software from Teracai (Continued)

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 5.D.(2):

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, Francis,
and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

5.D.(3) GTRANS - Approve Agreement with Stantec Architecture Inc. for Design Services for a total of \$175,380.96 and Authorize a Project Total of \$192,919.06.

This Item was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis, asked what is involved with the remodel and wondering why the remodel is necessary, since the building is about 11 years old. Mayor Cerda stated that she was looking at the reconfiguration and really appreciated the pictures to get a visual. She then proceeded to ask, from her understanding is this more geared towards the front of the building or is this more for where there's presentations off to the side, that is the part that she was not quite clear on. City Manager Osorio explained that this is the dispatch area so its not going to be the front the building, but it is back. Mayor Cerda asked if this was the restricted area for drivers and certain personnel? City Manager Osorio stated that is correct. City Manager Osorio confirmed that the building is an 11-year-old building. The answer to the question is the new technologies that are available to us now were not available 11 years ago; he is referring to the AVL system that has been approved and implementing in the entire G-Tran system, the automatic vehicle locator so this will automate our trips and scheduling. For us to do that, we need to reconfigure the electronics and technology in the dispatch center which is going to be the main brain center for the AVL and the dispatch center. Each terminal will now have three monitors for instance and there is going to be some lines being ran through like ethernet cables. Everything needs to be reconfigured for this new system and that is why we are having to do this architecture and later we will do the actual construction. So that is mainly what it is; new technologies are emerging and for us to do that we need to reconfigure the entire dispatch center.

Council Member Kaskanian stated we are paying one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars to remodel the building and update our technology. He then asked if is it necessary at this time and where is the funding coming from? City Manager Osorio confirmed that the one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars is just for the design services and does not include construction costs. He then added the money would come from partial federal dollars and GTRANS capital improvement plan. He stated we must go forward with these projects otherwise the funding may be compromised, and we cannot keep pushing back the project. Council Member Kaskanian then asked how much of the funds are coming from the federal and is it a big deal that we can not give up. Director Crespo then responded by stating that they have set aside capital dollars for this project probably two years ago. We have the dollars, and it is not touching the general fund or operating dollars. It is strictly using capital dollars that we must use towards capital improvements. This project does not have any federal dollars; specifically using only capital dollars that we get from the state.

Council Member Kaskanian asked once we pay the architect one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, what will be completed. Director Crespo stated that we are trying not to tear down many walls and maximize the space we currently have. He stated a lot of the cost is going to be electrical, flooring, furniture and moving fire extinguisher lines. The biggest expense item will probably be a new HVAC System. The HVAC system is hitting the 10-year life and starting to fail. With the size of the GTRANS building, it is the right time to change that system. He stated it will be between five hundred thousand and eight hundred thousand in construction cost. This is just the plan and then with council's approval we will go out to bid and the get this project wrapped up before the end of the year. Council Member Kaskanian then asked if we are ready for the eight hundred-thousand-dollar project. Director Crespo confirmed that we have the capital funds ready to go. He mentioned it

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

5.D.(3) GTRANS - Approve Agreement with Stantec Architecture Inc. for Design Services for a total of \$175,380.96 and Authorize a Project Total of \$192,919.06 (Continued)

does not impact our busses which is how our funds work. He mentioned if we do not start using these funds within three years, the funds start diminishing. We are not able to build a large reserve (cash). Council Member Kaskanian asked if this is not going to hurt us down the road and are going to say we are out of money in the future. Director Crespo responded with no, that is not the plan. Even if we were short in operating dollars, we cannot use these funds, for example, for wages.

Council Member Tanaka then asked if Director Crespo stated it would cost eight hundred thousand for this project. He said in the report he read it was between three hundred and four hundred thousand. Director Crespo responded by saying that the HVAC system was not included in the report which can be very pricey. He stated that is why the numbers are a lot lower. He added that construction costs are very expensive right now and this is just the planning stage of the process.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, he asked if we have consulted with Metro or Long Beach Transit for their advice with the experience they have. He wanted to see if this location can be used as a back up location for 911 calls. He asked if it is possible to have duly trained dispatchers. If the power goes out or we have an earthquake, we have a back-up system in our City. He also mentioned that Metro has come out with a new bus trend called Metro Micro and is a small van that costs one dollar and is active in Compton, El Monte, North Hollywood, etc. He said it an app that you can download. He said it would be good for businesses to go from one location to another. He said he would recommend that we hold off on this project for at least a few months before COVID-19 goes away. He said it would be very helpful for Gardena residents, as they would be able to get to one side of Gardena to the other very easily.

City Manager Osorio responded by saying that it might seem simple but the RCC is a totally different dispatch system. The encrypted digital technology is even more complicated and that is the reason it is not possible. Director Crespo then said the Transit App is who we are partnered with. LA Metro Transit within the last six months adopted the same app that we are using. The app we are using has become the main app everyone is using for transit systems. He mentioned once we have real time information and the ABL project is live then the transit app will have current information instead of static information like the bus book. Council Member Henderson added that to make our dispatch an RCC it would have to be completely re-done because it would be too small and no place to put the electronics or to put an RCC in that small of a building. Mayor Cerda then added that the circle design of this project is very forward thinking and interesting.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve 5.D.(3):

Ayes: Council Members Francis and Tanaka, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Member Kaskanian, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. JANUARY 19, 2021, MEETING – *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – No Items

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No Items

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

(1) COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

Mayor Cerda added that she believes it is in the works to have a vaccination center in our City. City Manager Osorio then stated that we currently have an MOU with LA County, and it is signed and effective. All we are waiting for is LA County to activate the M-Pod. Once they deem that the vaccinations are constant, they will activate the M-Pod in Gardena. Then the system will be based on an appointment system through LA County. Council Member Kaskanian then mentioned that he believed there were vaccinations taking place over the weekend at the Albertsons parking lot. Mayor Cerda then confirmed that Chief Saffell told her that Albertsons partnered with the county to give out vaccinations. Council Member Tanaka mentioned that there are multiple places that are giving out vaccinations but there are no appointments available for January or February. He then added that Gardena Memorial has some appointments, but they are full as well. He said that is where the problem is because all the places you go that are listed on the website, do not have any appointments available. His understanding is there is not enough vaccines provided right now or enough people to disburse the vaccine. He added he believes Kaiser is taking non-members if you can make an appointment at Kaiser. He stated it is almost impossible to get the vaccine.

City Manager Osorio stated that if someone receives a Pfizer vaccine it requires to be stored in extreme cold temperatures. Once they are released and not stored, they must use them which is perhaps why we are seeing quasi distribution temporarily.

Chief Saffell gave an update regarding the vaccine distributions. The pharmacies are connected to the county network and Albertsons did have a vaccination drive up which was apart of the County network. They had 300 doses that went to medical personnel and was by appointment only. Ralphs and Vons both had vaccinations, but it was all a part of the County network. The Gardena Memorial Hospital is going to start giving a couple thousand vaccines, but they will be in that same LA County network. The problem is waiting on the vaccines to be released to those locations. He has a lot of confidence in the access point and the fact that it will be advertised when those vaccines do become available.

D. PUBLIC WORKS

- (1) Approve Plans and Specifications and Award Construction Contract to Hardy & Harper, Inc. in the amount of \$1,167,000 for the Western Avenue Street Improvements from Artesia Blvd to Redondo Beach Blvd, JN 955 and additionally;

- (a) Approve a Budget Transfer of \$900,000 from the SB1 Fund Balance to JN 955 and return \$900,000 to the Prop C Fund Balance

- (b) Approve Expenditures of Remaining Project Budget of \$413,000 for Construction Administration

Council Member Henderson asked 1) Where did we advertise? 2) How many minority or women owned firms responded to this submittal? 3) Did we do our reference check for the lowest bid because sometimes the lowest bid executing the project is a challenge? City Manager Osorio stated we used ARC solutions which is like planet bids. As far as minorities that submitted for the project, there was none. Lastly, we have checked all references.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

D. PUBLIC WORKS (Continued)

- (1) Approve Plans and Specifications and Award Construction Contract to Hardy & Harper, Inc. in the amount of \$1,167,000 for the Western Avenue Street Improvements from Artesia Blvd to Redondo Beach Blvd, JN 955 and additionally; (Continued)

Council Member Kaskanian asked how good the quality of the materials is going to be since there is about a one hundred and fifty thousand dollar difference in the highest bid versus the lowest bid. City Manager Osorio responded by saying that the materials used are standard and asphalt being used is standard. The materials are all specified in the bid.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, he acknowledges that the distance from Artesia Boulevard to Redondo Beach Boulevard is long. He asked if we were going to add a median to this project as well as some greenery. In the City of Torrance, they installed a green center median. When installing a green center median, there is going to be digging involved for water lines and a specific on the model of the trees they are planting. He stated he likes the sleeping willow trees and we need to decorate with trees. He added it provides shade and a good atmosphere to the City. He said it also encourages new businesses, helps current businesses, increases property value, and lowers pollution. He asked if a center median will be added on this project, in which he referenced Artesia Boulevard in between Yukon Avenue and Cashmere Avenue. They planted mini trees where the roots do not impact the street. He encourages looking at the City of Torrance regarding trees because they are beautifying there median with green trees.

City Manager responded to Zahid Ahmed's question regarding if a center median will be added on this project in which the answer was "no." This is on overlay project meaning it is just asphalt and concrete. The question regarding adding a median; adding a median requires a traffic study because a median would eat up the lane and places like Torrance have landscape median districts which are funded by tax dollars. It is an entirely different endeavor and would require an election to see if the residents are willing to pay for it. If the voters would approve that then we can do that.

Council Member Francis then asked if we have any plans for the concrete going North. City Manager Osorio said that we have a master plan as far as overlay projects that encompass the entire City.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Plans and Specifications; Award Contract; Approve Budget Transfer and Approve Expenditures of Remaining Project Budget:

Ayes: Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

E. POLICE – No Items

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

G. TRANSPORTATION – No Items

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Mayor Cerda

- (1) Potentially raise the fine for speeding or raising as these issues increase in our City. (Second was not necessary; City Attorney Vasquez answered the question by saying it is set by the Deputy District Attorney's office and the judge is the one that gets to determine the fine)
- (2) Gardena Community Revitalization Plan (Seconded by Council Member Kaskanian)

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson

- (1) Educational tools on "How to do business with the City of Gardena or other Cities." (Seconded by Council Member Francis)

Council Member Francis

- (1) List of Gardena businesses that have closed; it was suggested by City Attorney Vasquez to wait another month to allow all the business renewals to be completed.

Council Member Tanaka

- (1) Check on RV Parking through neighborhoods. (Seconded by Council Member Kaskanian).

Council Member Kaskanian

- (1) Remove signs posted at traffic lights throughout the City. (Second was not needed; City Manager Osorio stated that over one hundred signs have been removed recently and have issued notices of violation for those signs).

C. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

City Manager Osorio gave a verbal report of information to follow-up on matters that had been directed or requested by the Mayor and Members of Council. Those items were, as follows:

- (1) Announcement for the UCLA Blood Drive February 9, 2021 at Rush Gym from 9am-2pm.
- (2) Hometown Heroes Presentation- Military Services Recognition Program

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – He attended the legislative briefing zoom meeting and there were representatives from Congress and the Assembly. One of things talked about was a 2.7-billion-dollar surplus with the State. The understanding is that the Governor is not offering any assistance monetarily to any local governments. He said there are going to be a lot of bills coming out related to broadband, legislation, land use issues, local government control and the EDD system. He mentioned we will have to look out for all the bills that will be coming out soon. He joined a zoom meeting that honored the California Hawaii Elks Association President. He also mentioned to please donate blood at our upcoming blood drive. He then said to please stay patient regarding the vaccine. He said to wear your mask, wash your hands, do not touch your face and social distance. He added later that he wanted to thank George Nakakura who was on the Humans Services Commission and said we are grateful for all his work on the commission for the City of Gardena. He mentioned that he hopes that he enjoys retirement.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (2) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – He said whenever there is a meeting around anything important, there is at least two of the members at every outing. We care about our City and want to get all the information that may be important to our City. He wanted to send out prayers and strength to all the employees, colleagues and community members that have families that have been negatively affected by COVID-19. He added that we must stay disciplined and maintain our physical distance and wear a mask until we get out of this difficult time. He attended the District 2 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. He mentioned command staff gave a brief synopsis of the things coming out of the new LA District Attorney's office and what impact that could have on our community. He also met with the Chief separately about that issues and talked about the things the District Attorney is doing and the impact it may have on the community and the impacts to the racial demographics of our community. He thanked the Chief for his time on that. He said the things that neither of them knew, they would go looking for the appropriate answers to make sure our community stays safe. He also attended the Los Angeles Business Federation COVID Task Force. They talked about what is on everybody's mind like; how to get the economy back open and improve the broadband connectivity for the underserved. They also talked about the legislation that is going to be happening up in Sacramento. He then attended an event partnering with internet service providers to see if we provide broadband to our community. He also attended the South Bay COG Fiber Network Meeting and there was a presentation where they collectively were trying to come up with a solution for what we can show regarding what a "smart" city means. They were all focused on providing WIFI in our parks and the need for additional investment as we look forward to that. One of the public speakers spoke on the security and how everyone wants to jump into the WIFI at the parks, but we must make sure it is secure, safe and the people are not able to hack each other through our network. He attended the LA County Public Health Meeting in which they discussed when vaccines become more available, that is when these M-Pods will be activated and start to flourish. He suggested that the County reach out to the Community Colleges because they have nursing students that can give shots. When he was in the hospital, he had a few nursing assistants and students from El Camino and Harbor College administering his shots, so they are trained. We need to see if the County can utilize these folks. He also attended Centinela Youth Services Meeting which they discussed youth justice and how the district attorney is changing the format and how the youth are charged for criminal behavior. He mentioned that the City has its own Juvenile Justice Center Intervention Program and Chief Saffell reassured him that program is not to incarcerate our youth but to make sure we can provide the resources to steer folks away from negative or criminal behavior.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS– She attended the 100th birthday of one of our residents, Ms. Mabel Burns. She turned 100 years old on January 16th and she was born in 1921. She moved to the City of Gardena on December 26, 1969. She mentioned it was a great celebration that was socially distanced. She thanked the Gardena Police Department and the Fire to help celebrate. They drove by with sirens and all the neighbors came out. She thanked the City for the beautiful certificate that she presented her. She also attended the District 1 neighborhood watch meeting and they discussed the same things that Mayor Pro Tem mentioned in the District 2 meeting. She thanked Chief Saffell, Lieutenant Cuff, and Captain Osorio for the information on crime stats and recruitment. She mentioned the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Parade was postponed until January 15th, 2022. She said the annual essay contest did go forward and they received about 200 essays from student in Gardena school. The Committee chose first, second, and third place for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. She mentioned that she will be announcing the winners at the next Council Meeting. She wanted to give Mr. Romero and Ms. Martinez an opportunity to announce their winners first and then she will come back and announce after. She was very impressed with the essays and she mentioned that she was

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

(3) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS (Continued)

reading essays on her Christmas vacation. She said our future looks bright. She gave a special thank you to Stephany Santin and the Recreation Department for the wonderful video of the MLK Parades over the last few years. She received many compliments on the video. She mentioned we are the first City west of the Mississippi to commemorate MLK with an official celebration. Most of the cities only have a one-day event but we have a two-day celebration, and we should be very proud of that. She also mentioned that in collaboration with the Recreation Department the MLK Committee will be having a fundraiser raffle with a wonderful gift basket. The basket contains a jacket, coffee cup, Gardena Monopoly, T-shirts and more. The tickets are \$5 each and you can contact the Recreation department and Gardena Events for more details. She asked everyone to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance. Lastly, she said better days are ahead and we will get through it.

- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She attended an overall update of what the Sanitation Department is doing. One of the things that are different this year is the Sanitation Board tests for COVID through waste. This is a good way for the Sanitation Department to communicate to the County on as the numbers go up for COVID and how they also go up in the waste. She said that a lot of other counties are not doing this but now they are starting to follow suit as far as giving additional information as it relates to COVID. She also attended the ADAP Red Ribbon Contest Award Ceremony that was offered through zoom and she mentioned it was good to know that even though kids cannot get together they are still celebrating their accomplishments through zoom. They were able to get their certificates and were able to hear their speeches on why they choose not to use drugs. Just hearing some of the young kids was very inspiring and important for us to hear the importance of not using drugs and abusing alcohol. She also attended the City Select Meeting where the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem's get to select NTA reps for our sectors. There is a representative from 88 Cities there and it was held through zoom. She was glad to say the meeting only lasted an hour and a half and they were able to accomplish a lot. She mentioned there was a young lady that all she wanted for her seventh birthday was people to donate to our food pantry, so she wanted to echo that and say that people are in need year around. Those of you that have extra non-expired items if you can consider giving to our pantry. Gardena Events highlighted her, and it seemed like it helped with the donations. Lastly, she encourages everyone to support our local outdoor restaurants by dining in or ordering takeout.

- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – Since he was absent at the last meeting, he is sure his colleagues have reported on all the events that he was not able to mention. He mentioned that he was in isolation with COVID-19. He thanked God that it was not too bad, he just lost his taste and smell. The bright side was that he lost seven pounds since he could not eat. He stated he was in isolation for fourteen days and no one was able to go in his room. His children were out of the house for 20 days. He said he was sorry for missing the last meeting. He thanked his colleagues and the entire City of Gardena to those who called and texted him to check on how he was doing.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Announcement for the UCLA Blood Drive February 9, 2021 at Rush Gym from 9am-2pm.
- (2) Virtual Workshop for the City of Gardena's Housing Element on February 4, 2021 at 7:00pm.

10. REMEMBRANCES

Mrs. Josefina Chavez Apodaca, 69 years of age, beloved long-time resident of Gardena since 1967. She is survived by her two sons Issai and Omar, two grandchildren, three brothers, and one sister: Mr. Roger Phillips, 51 years of age, beloved Bus Operator with the Transportation Department. He provided 13 years and 3 months of service to the City. He was a very charismatic person who enjoyed making people smile; Virgie Eastwood, 89 years of age and the beloved aunt of Kevin Thomas the park Superintendent in the Public Works Dept., Gabriela Vasquez, 10 years of age, she was a beloved student from Gardena Elementary School who passed away from cancer, Gabby was a participant in the city's youth soccer league at Johnson Park and she and her family attended many special events in the City of Gardena; Loretta Walker, 71 years of age, was born in Houston, Texas and later moved to Los Angeles with her family, she was also a retired U.S. Postal Service employee worldwide airmail facility in Los Angeles, she worked for 36 years and retired in 2004 after retiring she became extremely active in the community. She served on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Culture Committee in the City of Gardena for over 20 years where she worked diligently and proudly as a treasurer, she participated in numerous events and took an interest on the MLK Scholarship Program an essay contest for High School, Middle School and Elementary School students. Loretta loved the battle of the bands and the Gardena MLK parade and was a huge supporter of our trips and fundraisers.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:27 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourn to the Closed Session portion of the City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

MINA SEMENZA

City Clerk of the City of Gardena and
Ex-officio Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

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