MINUTES Regular Meeting Notice Gardena City Council Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Gardena City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, in the Council Chamber at City Hall 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California, Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Paulette C. Francis; and Council Member Wanda Love. Other City Officials and Employees present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Treasurer Guy H. Mato; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

2. CLOSED SESSION

- 2.A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Edward Medrano v. City of Gardena
 WCAB NO: ADJ18722621 and ADJ16893586
- 2.B CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Sherri Sheffield v. City of Gardena
 WCAB NO: ADJ16831317 and ADJ17001258
- 2.C CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Michael Nguyen v. City of Gardena
 WCAB NO: ADJ18114652
- 2.D CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Derrick Jones v. City of Gardena
 WCAB NO: ADJ16338485
- 2.E CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 City of Gardena v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
 Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCP03577
- 2.F CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Michael Sargent v. City of Gardena, et al.
 Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV03283
- 2.G CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Mariya Wrightsman v. City of Gardena, et al.

Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCP04453

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:48p.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 was any reportable action from Closed Session, she stated that Council met with regard to Items 2.A through 2.G; all members of the Council were present; as it pertains to Items 2.A through 2.E staff was provided with direction, with regards to Items 2.F and 2.G, the Council was provided with an update, no other reportable action was taken.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Miri Wilson and Noah Araiza, both in the 6th grade at 156th Street Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Miri is positive and enthusiastic with a great sense of humor. She loves dance and gymnastics. She also really enjoys traveling to calming locations with her family. Her favorite book is The Wizard of Oz, and she loves the movie Wicked. She is in a youth leadership group where she learns about fighting for equal rights in countries around the world. Noah is high achieving and hard-working and is in the Gifted and Talented Education, (GATE) program. He is very driven when he sets his sights on a goal. He enjoys sports and plays on a flag football team. In school, his favorite subjects are math and reading. His favorite books are the series Diary of a Wimpy Kid. An issue that Noah cares about is reducing violence in the world.

4. **INVOCATION**

Pastor Les Higgins of True Way Missionary Baptist Church led the Invocation in place of Joyce S. Watanabe of Baha'i Faith.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- 5.A Recognition of Public Works Staff for Completing two (2) Railroad Crossing Projects *Director of Public Works Allan Rigg spoke about the project;* a video was shown, and appropriate photos were taken
- 5.B Certificate of Commendation in Special Recognition of Retirement and Long-Time Service to the City of Gardena:
 - 1. Daniel Le Transit Mechanic with the Transportation Department 15 years
 - 2. Tonya Hill Bus Operator with the Transportation Department 25 years

 Director of Transportation Ernie Crespo spoke on behalf of the Retirees, who were not present at the meeting
- 5.C Certificate of Recognition to Louis Enriquez for his service to the community as a Member of the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission *Mr. Enriquez was not present at the meeting*
- 5.D Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Presentation **Presentation**was given by Caroline Gongora, Public Information Coordinator with the
 Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

- 5.E Boards & Commissions Presentation Beautification Commission Chair Paulette Francis spoke about the commission; Commissioner Barbara Phillips came up and said a few words; and a video was then presented
- 5.F Gardena Events Video Presentation

6. **PROCLAMATIONS**

6.A "Fair Housing Month" April 2025 – was accepted by Alice Nguyen, Outreach Coordinator of the Fair Housing Foundation

7. APPOINTMENTS

7.A Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils and Boards) (Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn In)

Rent Mediation Board - Owner Representative - Annie Roddy (Appointed by Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Tanaka)

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Cerda and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Appointment of Annie Roddy to the Rent Mediation Board-Owner Representative:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and Mayor Cerda; Council Members

Henderson, Love and Francis

Noes: None Absent: None

City Clerk Mina Semenza administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Roddy and appropriate pictures were taken.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

8.A Waiver of Reading in Full of All Ordinances Listed on this Agenda and that they be Read by Title Only

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.B Approve Minutes:

Regular Meeting of the City Council, March 11, 2025

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.C Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, March 25, 2025

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.D Monthly Investment Portfolio, February 2025

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.E Personnel Report P-2025-6 03-25-25

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.F Gardena General Plan Annual Progress Report

CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It was moved by Council Member Henderson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item 8.F:

Ayes: Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council

Members Francis and Love, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None Absent: None

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

8.F COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Gardena General Plan Annual Progress Report

Council Member Francis asked for an update regarding the annual progress report; Mayor Cerda made comments regarding the report; Council Member Love made comments and asked for confirmation of some of the things in the report so our community could better understand. Community Development Manager Amanda Acuna confirmed and answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Francis and seconded by Council Member Love and carried by the following roll call vote to:Approve Item 8.F:

Ayes: Council Member Francis and Love; Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council

Member Henderson and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None Absent: None

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

10.A MARCH 18, 2025 MEETING

ENVIROMENTAL ASSESMENT #18-24 and CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #8-24

The Planning Commission considered a request for a conditional use permit, to operate an amusement arcade within an existing commercial tenant space within the General Commercial (C-3) zoning district, in accordance with Section 18.32.030.H of the Gardena Municipal Code. The project was considered categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, as an existing facilities project and Section 15061(b)(3).

Applicant: Wawa Claw LLC (Representative: Matthew Chi)

Project Location: 1425 W. Artesia Blvd

<u>Commission Action:</u> The Planning Commission approved Resolution No. PC 4-25, by a vote of 5-0, approving Conditional Use Permit #8-24, subject to the conditions of approval presented by staff with an added condition, and directed staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

<u>City Council Action</u>: Receive and file **OR** call for review by way of two votes from the City Council.

The Item was Received and Filed.

10.B MARCH 18, 2025 MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #20-24, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #9-24

The Planning Commission considered a request for a conditional use permit, to operate an amusement arcade within an existing commercial tenant space within the General Commercial (C-3) zoning district, in accordance with Section 18.32.030.H of the Gardena Municipal Code. The project was considered for categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, as an existing facilities project Section 15061 (b)(3).

Applicant: Kiddleton Inc. (Representative: Kanako Nishikawa)

Project Location: 15484 S. Western Avenue

<u>Commission Action</u>: The Planning Commission approved Resolution No. PC 5-25, by a vote of 5-0, approving Conditional Use Permit #9-24, subject to the conditions of approval presented by staff with an added condition and directed staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

<u>City Council Action:</u> Receive and file **OR** call for review by way of two votes from the City Council.

The Item was Received and Filed.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) <u>Andrea Simental</u>, Community Library Manager at Gardena Mayme Dear Library; came to give library updates for both the Mayme Dear and Masao W. Satow libraries.
- 2) <u>Arohi Sharma</u>, resident of Torrance and a volunteer of the Torrance League of Women Voters; came to introduce herself and invite everyone to their Earth Day Event.
- 3) Jordan, resident; spoke about the homelessness problem in the City.

12. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

12.A Single Audit Report Required for Federally Funded Programs for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda then asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers

A comment was made by Council Member Henderson. Hearing no other comments from Council, Mayor Cerda stated that this item would be Received and Filed.

13. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - None**

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & CITY MANAGER'S OFFICES

14.A Approval of One-Year Agreement with Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. for Legislative Advocacy and Grant Funding Services in the amount of \$84,000

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Nicolo De Luca presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Cerda then asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by all Members of the Council. Mr. De Luca explained their methodology and answered all questions.

It was moved by Mayor Cerda and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Agreement:

Ayes: Mayor Cerda and Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka; Council Members

Henderson and Francis

Noes: Council Member Love

Absent: None

15. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – POLICE - None**

16. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS**

16.A Approve the Installation of Gardena Decorative Street Lighting by Southern California Edison (SCE), JN 506, on Gardena Boulevard between Vermont Avenue to Western Avenue and 162nd Street between Denker Avenue to Western Avenue, Authorize the City Manager to execute the SCE Application and Contract in a form approved by the City Attorney in the amount of \$182,000, Declare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption and Approve the Remaining Budget of \$47,000 as a Project Contingency

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

A few slides of the color patterns and the fixtures were presented by Director of Public Works Allan Rigg, who gave an update on the project.

Mayor Cerda then asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Francis, Mayor Cerda, and Council Member Love. Director of Public Works Allan Rigg explained the method and process of the street lighting project and answered all questions.

It was moved by Mayor Cerda and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to: Approve Project Installation by SCE with Chosen Color for Fixture; Authorize City Manager to Execute the Application & Contract with SCE; Declare CEQA Exemption; Approve Project Contingency:

Ayes: Mayor Cerda and Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka; Council Members

Henderson and Love

Noes: Council Member Francis

Absent: None

17. <u>DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES</u> - None

- 18. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS TRANSPORTATION None**
- 19. **COUNCIL ITEMS None**

20. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

Council Member Love

<u>Directive</u>: This directive is for council to consider allowing public works to install 15 poles on Gardena Boulevard, between Vermont Ave. and Budlong for string light to be hung backand-forth across Gardena Boulevard.

Purpose - To further revitalize Gardena Boulevard.

<u>Reason</u> - This additional lighting would enhance the Gardena Boulevard revitalization program already in existence.

<u>Benefit</u> - this additional lighting combined with the new Edison Street light heads will make Gardena Boulevard brighter and more attractive with hope of drawing more businesses to the Boulevard and inspire more customers to shop there after dark, creating a new night life on the Blvd.

Mayor Cerda and Council Member Francis seconded it.

Mayor Cerda

<u>Directive</u>: For staff to send a letter of support for AB 394 – Public Transit Operator and Rider Safety.

<u>Purpose</u> – Enhance the safety and security of California public transportation by strengthening protection for transit operators;

Reason – For the safety of our drivers, and riders on GTrans; and

Benefit – Promote a safer environment for our workers.

Council Member Francis seconded it.

City Attorney Vasquez mentioned that staff will prepare a draft letter and send it to you each one individually to let you decide if you would like to add your name to the letter of support.

21. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

1) City Manager Osorio stated that he had nothing to report.

22. **COUNCIL REMARKS**

- 1) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA Since the last meeting, he attended the State of the City address by our Mayor, it was a really great event, being a part of this great City for 71 years, it was nostalgic to look back at some of the City's history. He attended Casino Night supporting our seniors at the Nakaoka Community Center; Ms. Santin and her staff did a great job. Sadly, he attended the funeral of retired Gardena Police Officer, Cruz Olivares, he was a really great officer, who retired and unfortunately passed away. He attended the COG Housing Trust Advisory Committee meeting. He attended the RCC Board meeting, they approved the budget and they're trying to hire more dispatchers, so anybody looking for a dispatcher job should contact RCC. He attended the 88 Cities conference in Torrance, he thanked Council Member Dr. Henderson for being a part of the COG panel regarding the South Bay cities fiber network. He appreciates Community Development and staff members for showing up to this event. The event was hosted by Torrance Mayor George Chen. The Keynote Speaker was Tara Lynn Gray, who's a Director of the California Office of Small Business Advocate, who put on a really great message. He attended the law enforcement Badges Blood Drive, thank you Chief for always doing that. Hopefully, you guys win again. He attended the Eagle Scout awards presentation at the Gardena Valley Baptist Church for honorees of Troop #719. He mentioned their names, spoke of their commitment and dedication. Lastly, he attended the Board of Supervisors meeting, to support and request approval of Measure A fundings for the South Bay cities. He received an e-mail from Jackie Bacharach, our Director, who said that it passed so he's thankful for that and for Supervisor Hong and the rest of the supervisors.
- 2) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS Since the last meeting, she attended the State of the City and the Girl Boss workshop. She thanked Carolina Gongora, their Public Information Officer, from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District. She also gave a special thank you to Barbara Phillips for coming out to represent the Beautification Commission. If you see any graffiti anywhere, please call it in. She wants to thank the Public Works department for doing such a great job as soon as the calls come in, they get it done as fast as they can. She mentioned that as we go towards the month of April students are out for spring break, so you'll see more young people on the streets riding bicycles, keep an eye out for them. She thanked everybody for coming out and supporting our City Council meeting.
- 3) <u>COUNCIL MEMBER LOVE</u> Since the last meeting, she attended Casino night. She also attended the Willows Wetland Preserve Spring Equinox. She had the honor of sponsoring the snacks and the lunch for them, but she was really excited because in exchange she got nice little vegetable plants. She also attended the Carson State of the City address which was pretty amazing. Carson is definitely on the move, and they have a lot that they're about to do in preparation for the upcoming big events such as the World Cup, and the Olympics. She was speaking to the Mayor from Carson, and they were talking about how Gardena can start to position itself for capitalization on some of these big events. She's hoping that we can start some kind of campaign to market the multiple

diverse restaurants that we have, and we might be able to benefit from these events coming into the state. She shared with Councilwoman Francis that she thought she was going to have to replace your Commissioner Barbara Phillips because she was having some personal issues, but then on Monday Commissioner Barbara Phillips made it a point to pull her out of a meeting to tell her that no if she has not replaced her, then please don't because she really wants to stay. Commissioner Barbara Phillips loves your Commission that much, she just thought Council Member Francis should know that. She also spoke on the graffiti; she agrees and encourages residents to report all graffiti not just the big graffiti that's tagged on the walls with the spray paint but also graffiti that's written on our light poles, our street poles, our trash cans, and even our business windows. She encourages the community to get involved and it goes back to what the Chief said earlier without your community involvement and telling us what you want from us then they won't know. She strongly encourages more of our residents to become more engaged, more aware, attend the council meetings, and start getting involved in hearing and letting their voice be heard.

4) MAYOR CERDA - Since the last council meeting, she attended the LA County Sanitation personnel meeting. She also attended Environmental Charter School, the school had their 6th graders do a project on community issues that they saw around the city and how they would fix it. They did a great job, all the young people presenting, they all had talking points they created their own flyers along with poster boards. She attended the Emperor of Japan's birthday celebration at the Japanese Consulate General's home, along with our Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka. She also had the opportunity to be out with Public Works when they were doing the railroad. She thanked Public Works for doing an amazing job. She also attended Serra High School's 75th anniversary, which was held at the Westdrift Hotel, and it was really great to see so many former students that graduated even in the 60s. She also attended a tour of Nissin Foods, their CEO was so gracious to accommodate her, the City Manager, and a couple of our employees on this tour. They were able to see how cup noodles are made and to see it from its initial dough and how it's rolled out, processed and packaged. Also, she had the opportunity to attend the youth sports league, they had two different banquets on two different nights and that is always great to help award the young people for participating in sports. She also attended a Sister City International meeting. She also attended the 49th Annual Koi show banquet, the group is just so thankful for always being able to have their event hosted here in the City of Gardena and they go on and on about how great our staff is to them. Also, she attended our State of the City, and she just wants to thank everybody who played a part in it, putting that entire event together, from the staff who decorated, to those who were just helping get all the information from all the different departments. It came off well, showing the history of every department as it relates to when Gardena was first incorporated in 1930 to where we're at right now. She thanked the Chief for his presentation. She also attended Casino Night, another great event that was held by our staff, our residents want to have a Casino Night every month, it's just that good. She also attended Coffee with a Cop again another successful event. She attended her monthly CCGA meeting, and her local Sanitation meeting, she also attended Carson's State of the City, another great event. As Mayors, a lot of times they always like to support each other, their Mayor comes here, she goes over there, and they always share ideas of what they're doing in their cities, and how they can help each other out and so she was really happy just to see some of the great success that the city of Carson's is having. She had

the opportunity to attend the Girls Prep Academy for the Fire Department, LA County Fire Department offers this for young women who are interested in joining the fire department. Then she also attended the installation of the new president of their Association of Peruvian Cultural Group they had their event in San Pedro, it was another great event to attend. They mentioned they want to be more involved with Gardena. Lastly, this coming Friday she will be having her monthly town hall meeting at 6:00 PM, it will be at the Toss Up restaurant located on Artesia and Dalton. She is open to hearing any issues and concerns that any residents have as well as any information that she could share with you all to just let you understand all the different things that we offer in the City of Gardena.

5) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON - Our State of the City was great, Carson's State of the City was great, Hawthorne's State of the City was great, so he has gone to a few States of the City in our 16-city region of South Bay Council of Governments. He made an appeal to Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka as the chair of the COG to see if there's some interest in us doing a State of the Region for everybody to be aware or at least share the slides from what's happening in Inglewood to what Carson is doing. That prompted him to follow up with LA 28 in regards to what some of the smaller cities can do regarding the Olympics and the World Cup, so they gave him some ideas for Mr. City Manager he's going to synthesize them a little more and give them to our City Manager, and then they can work it through staff because there is opportunity. He attended Coffee with a Cop. He attended the Eagle Scout ceremony at Gardena Valley Baptist Church. He attended all his committee meetings, his Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review committee, Technical Advisory committee. He wants to thank again Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka as the chair of the COG they got an opportunity to present as he stated to the Los Angeles Economic Development Commission their 88 City Summit hosted by the City of Torrance. He was humbled and honored to be the presenter for our South Bay fiber network and also to represent the City of Gardena. He did his business and community visits, he got some feedback from the mayor's last town hall meeting, it was pretty cool. He wants to thank the staff, the Chief, and the Public Works Department for the railroad project. He thanked the City Manager; he appreciates the responsiveness of him and the staff with his inquiries and questions. So, you aren't on a bottleneck, they're getting stuff done and he appreciates that.

23. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

- 1) Willows Week of Service; Volunteers are needed April 14, 2025, to April 18, 2025, From 8:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Willows Wetland Preserve;
- 2) Youth Spring Camp April 14, 2025, to Aprill 18, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Freeman Park, Nakaoka Community Center and Johnson Park;
- 3) Volunteen Camp April 14, 2025, to April 18, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center;
- 4) Hoppin' Bunny Breakfast April 19, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center;
- 5) Eggstravaganza Bonanza April 19, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Rowley Park;
- 6) Aquatic Center Coming Summer 2025 Feedback Survey will Open February 24, 2025, to March 25, 2025 for a chance to enter a raffle to win a \$50 credit;
- 7) Paper Shredding Event April 5, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City Hall Complex;

- 8) TRP Books & Beyond Adventure April 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center;
- 9) Compost Giveaway April 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Rowley Park;
- 10)Spring Community Yard Sale April 5, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mas Fukai Park;
- 11)League of Women Voters, Earth Day Teach-in April 21, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

24. **REMEMBRANCES**

Mrs. Kimiko Nakaoka, 95 years old, former resident of Gardena for many years and wife of former Gardena Mayor Ken Nakaoka;

Mr. Avelino "Cruz" Olivares, former Police Officer with the Gardena Police Department.

25. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:29 p.m. Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the Closed Session portion of the City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

	MINA SEMENZA City Clerk of the City of Gardena and
	Ex-officio Clerk of the Council
APPROVED:	
Tasha Cerda, Mayor	By: Becky Romero
Tasha Cerda, Mayor	Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk