

MINUTES
Regular Meeting Notice
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, July 8, 2025

The Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Gardena City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:45 PM on Tuesday, July 8, 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 Clerk Mina Semenza; City Treasurer Guy H. Mato; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

2. **CLOSED SESSION** – *None*

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Miguel Fernandez of Santa Fe High School and Thomas Gutierrez of El Camino College, both who are Gardena Police Explorers led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Miguel has been an Explorer for three years, and he enjoys airsoft, video games, and working out. Thomas has been an explorer for one year, he enjoys martial arts, playing piano, photography, and working out.

4. **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Pastor Martiz Ware of FaithWorks AG Church and Gardena Christian Academy.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

5.A Gardena Events Video Presentation – ***the video presentation highlighted the Recreation and Human Services Department's current and future events.***

6. **PROCLAMATIONS**

6.A Parks and Recreation Month - July 2025 – ***was accepted by Recreation and Human Services Manager Nicola Howard***

7. **APPOINTMENTS**

7.A Reorganization of the City Council - Selection of Mayor Pro Tem Select Mayor Pro Tem to serve from July 2025 to July 2026

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.

Mayor Cerda then asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to nominate Mayor Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka to nominate Council Member Henderson to serve as the new Mayor Pro Tem from July 2025 to July 2026; Mayor Cerda seconded it.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Francis. Mayor Cerda answered.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Cerda, and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Council Member Henderson to serve as the new Mayor Pro Tem from July 2025 to July 2026:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Mayor Cerda, Council Members Henderson and Francis

Noes: Council Member Love

Absent: None

7.B Reorganization of Council Assignments of Delegates and Alternates to Outside / City Committees

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.

Mayor Cerda then asked Council if everyone was okay with their assignments, or if anyone wanted to change.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and Council Member Francis. Mayor Cerda and City Attorney Vasquez answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Re-Adopt the Current Assignments to all Outside / City Committees:

Ayes: Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Member Francis and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Abstain: Council Member Love

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, June 24, 2025
CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.C Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, July 8, 2025

July 8, 2025: Wire Transfer: 13000, 13019-13027, Prepay: 181104-181110; Check Numbers: 181111-181302 for Total Warrants issued in the amount of \$6,368,185.84; Total Payroll Issued for June 27, 2025: \$2,760,136.03
CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.D Personnel Report P-2025-12 07-08-25
CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.E RESOLUTION NO. 6708, Authorizing the Filing of a Claim with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Local Transportation Funds
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION NO. 6708

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CLAIM WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

8.F Approve City of Gardena's GTrans 2025 Title VI Program Update
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

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

Ayes: Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Abstain: Council Member Love

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

8.E RESOLUTION NO. 6708, Authorizing the Filing of a Claim with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Local Transportation Funds
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION – *Item pulled by Council Member Francis*

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Cerda and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.E:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8.F Approve City of Gardena's GTrans 2025 Title VI Program Update

CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION – *Item pulled by Council Member Francis*

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis. City Manager Osorio and Assistant Director of Transportation Dana Pynn answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.F:

Ayes: Council Member Francis, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Henderson and Love, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent:None

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTIONSHEET

10.A JULY 1, 2025, MEETING - *Meeting Cancelled*

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Andrea Simenthal, Community Library Manager of Mayme Dear Library came to give updates regarding the Mayme Dear Library and Masao W. Sato libraries;
- 2) Steven Ludwig, came to give updates on the Normandie Crossings project, its security; and where we are with the project;
- 3) Fernando Aguilar, Jr., came to speak on the ICE raids that are happening in our neighboring cities and across the country.

11.A PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) City Clerk Semenza acknowledged that a Public Comment was received, distributed to Council and made part of the record.

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – *No Items*

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *No Items*

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & CITY MANAGER'S OFFICES – *No Items*

15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - POLICE – *No Items*

16. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS – *No Items*

17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – *No Items*

18. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - TRANSPORTATION

- 18.A Approve a Five-Year Digital Radio System Maintenance Agreement and Software Subscription with COMMLine, Inc. at a Cost of \$105,697.92 and a Project Total of \$116,267.71

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.

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis and Mayor Cerda. City Manager Osorio answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve a Five-Year Digital Radio System Maintenance Agreement and Software Subscription with COMMLine, Inc. at a Cost of \$105, 697.92 and a Project Total of \$116,267.71:

Ayes: Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Francis and Love, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

19. **COUNCIL ITEMS**

19.A Gardena Wall of Fame Honorees Nomination and Selection Procedures

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.

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis, Love, and Henderson, Mayor Cerda, and Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka. Anahi Corte, Admin Aide, who works in the City Manager's office and City Attorney Vasquez answered all questions.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Love and carried by the following roll call vote to keep the Wall of Fame Procedures as is, and give direction to the Committee to make a recommendation not just on candidates but also on the number of years:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Love, Henderson and Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

19.B Gardena Wall of Fame Committee Appointments

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda then asked if anyone on the Council had recommendations to appoint members to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee.

City Attorney Vasquez recommended that a roll call vote be taken after each nomination.

Council Member Henderson recommended Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Francis.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Becky Romero to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka recommended Recreation and Human Services Director Stephany Santin.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Francis.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Henderson and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Stephany Santin to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee:

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

Council Member Love recommended Commissioner Shari Farmer.

It was moved by Council Member Love, seconded by Council Member Henderson and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Shari Farmer to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee:

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

Council Member Francis recommended Rachel Johnson.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Love and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Rachel Johnson to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee:

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

Mayor Cerda recommended Deborah Griffin.

It was moved by Mayor Cerda seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Deborah Griffin to the Gardena Wall of Fame Committee:

Ayes: Mayor Cerda, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Henderson and Francis

Noes: Council Member Love

Absent: None

20. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

1) **Council Member Love**

Subject - Staff is directed to include in the future discussions about the number of years between the selection honoree, a provision is discussed to disqualify city staff from being appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee for the "Wall of Fame." This ensures that only community members serve on the selection committee.

Purpose – The purpose of this directive is to eliminate any potential conflicts of interest. It prevents city staff from having influence over the selection of honorees. This ensures a fair and impartial process that upholds the integrity of the recognition.

Reason – To maintain transparency and community ownership of the nomination process.

Benefit – This directive reinforces public trust by ensuring the "Wall of Fame" remains a community-driven honor. Residents will feel confident that selections are made based solely on merit and public input. It protects the city's reputation by maintaining fairness, neutrality, and transparency in the process.

Council Member Francis seconded it.

2) **Council Member Francis**

Subject - Update on public and private projects (ex: vacant lot at Rosecrans and Purche, Marine and Western, and the vacant lot at 153rd and Western; Council Member Love added the dog park project at Thornburg Park.

Purpose – To keep Council informed on progress of various projects

Reason – To improve the aesthetic quality and beautification of our city.

Benefit – To improve the quality of life in our city.

Council Member Henderson seconded it.

21. **CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS**

- 1) Two memos regarding Citywide Cyber Security and the Budget Forum Communication. We will be celebrating the July birthdays with cake after the Council meeting.

22. COUNCIL REMARKS

- 1) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – She thanked the staff for all their hard work, due diligence, and for answering her questions. She mentioned a lot is going on in our world and our city; it's important to recognize that many of these occurrences are wrong. She mentioned she is asking everyone to pay attention to what's going on because your children and your grandchildren are going to know what is going on; you keep hearing the words "unprecedented" and "historical." She continued to say it's important that we pay close attention and to be sure that elections have consequences and we have to make sure that people and our children understand; these are challenging times, and difficult times but better days are coming; it's been promised.
- 2) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON - Since the last meeting, he has been preparing for the Independent Cities Association conference that's happening this week. He mentioned he also attended South Bay City's Council of Government's meeting at Nakaoka as they recognized Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka for his last meeting. He also thanked the IT team for the level of our Wi-Fi and the speed everyone was impressed. He continued to say that folks don't get to come over here to Gardena often, but when they come over, they're impressed with what we're doing; our big Gardena sign out front still blows everybody away. He then thanked the staff and everybody for all his emails and phone calls and responding to the issues.
- 3) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA - Since the last meeting, the City hosted the South Bay COG's monthly meeting at the Nakaoka Center. He mentioned this meeting was his last as chairman and he thanked Jackie Bacharach and the entire COG staff for making his year a great success and all the support that was given. He then congratulated the Chief on his official promotion and badge pinning; it was a great event. He hoped everybody had a great 4th. He wasn't able to attend Rowley Park's 4th of July event, but he did see it from his vantage point. He thanked Gardena because there were way fewer illegal fireworks than last year and the year before, and said he appreciates that we tried to keep it safe and sane this year.
- 4) MAYOR CERDA - She attended a couple of events. The first one was the Lions Club, as their president had his final sendoff, Steve Makshanoff, and she was there to congratulate him; she attended the Council of Government's meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, she congratulated him on a job well done; she also attended the 11th annual Angel City's gaming opening ceremonies and mentioned it's an organization that helps young disabled people play all sorts of games, it was a pre-special Olympics, and this was held at El Camino College. She also had her monthly town hall meeting. Her topic this time was making sure that people know their constitutional rights as human beings, with all that's going on. She also attended the Gardena Valley JCI Matsuri Festival. She also attended the Rowley Park 4th of July celebration. She thanked the staff as always for doing an amazing job out there. She attended the third annual City of Inglewood's music festival that was hosted by Council Member Dionne Faulk and it was a great event that was co-sponsored by KJLH. She attended the funeral services for Mr. Duane Hinds, who was a former planning commissioner for about 10 years, back in the early 90s. Then lastly, she was at our new Chief of Police's pinning ceremony. She congratulated him.

- 5) COUNCIL MEMBER LOVE – She started by sending her condolences to Pastor Ware, his wife, and their family for the loss of his father. She apologized to our new Chief of Police, Fox, for not attending the ceremony. She mentioned that she had a new employee that started and everything that could go wrong went wrong. To the young man who spoke during Oral communication, she received an invitation to that protest. Unfortunately, she received it at the last minute, and it was a conflict in her schedule, and she could not attend. But she wholeheartedly supports you guys, and she does stand with you guys. There's not a lot that our officers can do except stand against it but understand they can't get involved. You mentioned ICE being on Gardena Boulevard in our surrounding cities. She had a friend show her a video of ICE picking up people right here at the corner market. So, ICE is in Gardena. She just wants you to know that. She thanked everybody who came out and supported the Gardena Chamber of Fireworks stand. She thanked everybody who reached out to her after the last Council Meeting. Lastly, she ended her remarks by saying a few words in response to what was said about her at our last meeting during the Council Remarks.

23. **ANNOUNCEMENT(S)**

- 1) Free Summer Meal Program, Monday-Friday, 6/23/2025-8/8/2025 at Johnson Park, Mas Fukai Park, Freeman Park, and Rowley Park. See flyer for more details;
- 2) Pitch, Hit and Run event, Saturday, 7/12/2025 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Mas Fukai Park;
- 3) Show & Shine Car show, Saturday, 7/12/2025 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Rowley Park;
- 4) Willows Wetland Preserve Parents Story Time, Sunday, 7/27/2025 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Willows Wetland Preserve;
- 5) Back to School Giveaway & National Night Out, Tuesday, 8/5/2025 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall Complex.

24. **REMEMBRANCES**

Mr. Duane Mayo Hinds, 97 years old and a former Planning Commissioner with the City of Gardena from 1990-1999.

25. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:22 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, August 12, 2025.

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

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda, Mayor
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

