

MINUTES
Regular GEBAC Meeting of the
Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission
Wednesday, July 16, 2025

The Regular GEBAC Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in the Nakaoka Community Center, 2nd Floor, Room D at 1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, California.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:39 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Joshua Bettencourt; Vice-Chair Paul Giuliano; Commissioner Gene Hale, Commissioner Jules Laross Kanhan; Commissioner Naresh Solanki; Commissioner Moe Shemirani; Commissioner Kale Morita; Commissioner Christyna Giles Washington; and Commissioner Donald Penegar. Employees present: Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi and Administrative Analyst I, Georgina Placido.

Commissioner Gilbert Bernal Jr. was absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Joshua Bettencourt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bettencourt noted that no members of the public were present, and no member of the public wished to speak to the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission at this time.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A May 21, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Chairman Bettencourt and seconded by Commissioner Solanki to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 21, 2025:

Ayes: Bettencourt, Giuliano, Hale, Kanhan, Solanki, and Washington

Noes: None

Absent: Bernal

6. NEW BUSINESS / MEMBER INITIATIVES

6.A Introduction of a New Commissioner – Donald Penegar

Commissioner Penegar introduced himself, sharing his professional background and details about his family. He expressed his desire to contribute to the commission and provide support.

Chair, Bettencourt welcomed Commissioner Penegar and looks forward to the contributions he will make to the Commission.

6.B Discussion of the Draft Bylaws

Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi briefed all the Commissioners about the Draft Bylaws and the GEBAC section of the Gardena Municipal Code, indicating that the Commission is required to adopt its own bylaws pertaining to the organization of the commission.

Ms. Choi reviewed the draft bylaws and pointed out specific sections that are new and not included in the Gardena Municipal Code. She provided detailed explanations of the overall draft bylaws and the added language in the new sections. Ms. Choi requested that all Commissioners review the draft and bring their recommendations or concerns to the next scheduled meeting.

There was a discussion among the Commissioners and Ms. Choi, several key topics were discussed. These included the election term for the Chair and Vice-Chair, the number of vacancies, and the process for appointing a new commissioner. They also talked about the scheduled meeting dates and times, the Brown Act, and the procedures for special meetings.

Ms. Choi encouraged all Commissioners to review the draft bylaws and bring their recommendations to the next scheduled meeting in September for approval. She noted that the bylaws were drafted by the city attorney.

7. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

No reportable items by the City Manager.

Commissioner Hale expressed his desire to reinstate a previous request for the city council to enforce a small business loan program and require contractors to engage in local hiring and participation.

Ms. Choi mentioned that this topic had been previously scheduled and can be brought back for the September meeting.

Chair Bettencourt requested that all relevant information the city has gathered so far be provided for review, as the city attorney has addressed the Commission on this matter.

Ms. Choi noted that she has not received any updates since the last presentation, during which they discussed how other cities are implementing and monitoring their local hiring programs. However, she confirmed that this topic can be added to the agenda for the next scheduled meeting. She also provided examples and information regarding the city's efforts to encourage local hiring by developers.

Commissioner Hale volunteered to present this matter before the City Council. Chair Bettencourt suggested that it would be beneficial to revisit the subject and review the information gathered in order to move forward.

The commissioners shared their perspectives and recommendations regarding the issue.

Chair Bettencourt then asked Ms. Choi if she could recommend any staff members who might be able to assist with the matter.

Ms. Choi responded that she would follow her chain of command to pass on the information and provide an update at the next scheduled meeting. Chair Bettencourt agreed.

8. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Economic Development Manager Jackie Choi informed the Commission about the Request for Proposals (RFP) that has been released for Gardena Boulevard, with a deadline of August 11, for submissions.

Ms. Choi also announced the upcoming National Night Out event, scheduled for August 5, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) CHAIR BETTENCOURT – He thanked everyone for electing him and looks forward to achieving progress and advancing initiatives.
- 2) COMMISSIONER HALE – He reiterated the importance of local hiring and expressed his eagerness to address this issue, which is significant for business owners.

Chair Bettencourt invited all commission members to share their suggestions or questions.

- 3) COMMISSIONER SHEMIRANI – He expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Hale for bringing him on board and for his long-standing commitment to the commission.

Chair Bettencourt also thanked Commissioner Hale for all his contributions.

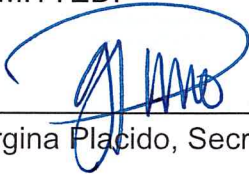
- 4) COMMISSIONER KANHAN – No items to report.
- 5) VICE-CHAIR GIULIANO – No items to report.
- 6) COMMISSIONER SOLANKI – No items to report.

- 7) COMMISSIONER MORITA – No items to report.
- 8) COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON – No items to report.
- 9) COMMISSIONER PENEGAR – No items to report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

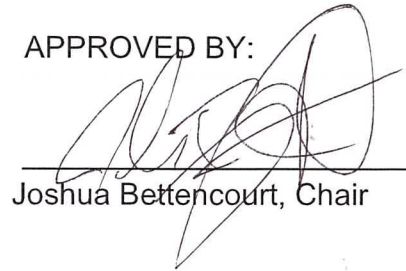
Chair Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM. .

SUBMITTED:



Georgina Placido, Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Joshua Bettencourt, Chair