

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY, 2010 7:35 A.M.
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Schneider convened the special meeting of the City Council and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) at 7:35 a.m. City Councilmembers/CRA Members present: Cacciotti, Putnam, and Sifuentes (arriving at 7:59 a.m.); Mayor Pro tem/CRA Vice Chair Ten; and Mayor/CRA Chair Schneider. Members absent: None. Other officials present: City Manager Davidson; Assistant City Manager Gonzalez; City Attorney/CRA Counsel Adams; Fire Chief Wallace; Transportation Manager Woods; City Clerk Kilby; and Deputy City Clerk Kbjian.

**DISCUSSION AND
POSSIBLE ACTION
REGARDING AN
OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO
AN EDITORIAL THAT
APPEARED IN THE LOS
ANGELES TIMES
NEWSPAPER ON MAY 23,
2010 REGARDING THE
SR 710 FREEWAY GAP
CLOSURE**

Mayor Schneider expressed appreciation to the members of the public and to City staff for attending the early morning session. He said the meeting was called to discuss an editorial that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* on May 23, 2010, regarding the proposed 710 freeway extension. Later he noted that copies of the editorial were available for the public. He said the meeting was called by Mayor Pro tem Ten, who obtained approvals to hold the meeting from Councilmembers Cacciotti and Sifuentes. Mayor Schneider asked Mayor Pro tem Ten to explain why he called the meeting.

Mayor Pro tem Ten said that the City has been attempting to improve its ability to respond to media coverage on the proposed 710 freeway issue. Since the editorial appeared on May 23, and since there is a crucial Metro meeting May 27, he said he wanted to make sure a message from the City Council was conveyed.

Mayor Pro tem Ten read a draft of the letter to the editor he is proposing to send to the *Los Angeles Times*. Copies had been distributed to the Council and made available in the Council Chambers. He said that the draft had been reviewed by freeway special counsel Jan Chatten-Brown and consultant Mike Roos.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Schneider opened the public comment period. He limited speakers to two minutes each.

Clyde Williams, 4225 Barrett Road, Los Angeles, made comments about the editorial, stating that there are many unknowns about the proposed tunnel project. He took issue with numerous points made in the editorial. The City's letter should refer to the project definition phase, he said, instead of jumping right to the environmental impact review phase.

Mary Ann Parada, 1710 Ramona Avenue, opposed sending the proposed letter to the *Los Angeles Times*. She questioned assumptions made by the editorial. She said a feasibility study has yet to be completed.

Don Justin Jones, 225 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, said activities by one Councilmember undermine the City's concern for residents outside the City and solidarity with other communities on the 710 issue. Caltrans tenants in the 710 corridor, himself included, have been faced with evictions. In July 2008, he said he asked City Councilmembers to sign a letter of support, and four signed it. He said he discovered that Councilmember Cacciotti had been contacted by Caltrans and that he has submitted a petition/rebuttal/deposition. The document has not been made available, he said. He raised additional concerns about this issue and asked the Councilmember to explain in public the reason for his actions.

Janet Ervin, 801 Meridian Avenue, expressed thanks to the Council for suggesting that a letter be written. She raised concerns about the content of the draft letter and made suggestions for changes.

Clarice Knapp, 417 El Centro Street, made comments on the draft letter and expressed opposition to various statements in the proposed letter.

Harry Knapp, 417 El Centro Street, opposed responding to the editorial. He said the proposed letter supports the editorial's underlying tone that the extension should be completed, no matter what. He urged sending a letter supporting the Najarian [Metro Board Chair] amendment instead. He made related remarks.

Gideon Lowe, 2101 Mission Street, said that overall, the letter was good. He recommended clearing up assumptions made in the editorial. He provided historical

background. He made suggested changes to the letter.

Joanne Nuckols, 1531 Ramona Avenue, opposed sending the draft letter. Any letter should be correcting all the misinformation in the editorial, she said. "It's late to respond," she said, "the newspaper will not print it, and it will confuse them even more." This will jeopardize the whole freeway fight, she said.

Mayor Schneider left the public comment period open.

Discussion followed. Councilmember Putnam opposed sending a response to the editorial. He expressed concern about "downstream consequences" of sending such a letter. He said the City is involved with Metro at a sensitive level regarding the Measure R lawsuit. He reported that he learned that at the upcoming Metro meeting 05/27/10, the tunnel EIR [Environmental Impact Report] will be approved.

Mayor Schneider announced that Councilmember Sifuentes joined the meeting (7:59 a.m.).

Councilmember Cacciotti said the letter should be simple, informative, and persuasive. He made remarks about the Federal Clean Air Act and studies documenting the adverse health effects of tunnel-related air pollution. He said he is leaning toward not sending the letter. Councilmember Sifuentes opposed sending the letter. Mayor Pro Tem Ten supported sending the letter, stating that this is a unique opportunity to make points critical to the current discussion of the tunnel and the designated zones . . . and an opportunity to insert the multi-mode alternative. Councilmember Putnam said if the City Council decided to send a letter, he would want to make numerous changes in the draft. Mayor Schneider opposed sending the letter. "If we want to get our position known publicly, I think we have to have a public information campaign," he said. Mayor Pro Tem Ten asked how the City will respond when something else appears. "I'm sure Nat Read already has a letter to the *Los Angeles Times*," he said. "We will lose the opportunity to at least frame a couple of points that need to go forward." Councilmember Cacciotti said he now opposed sending a response but supported moving forward with the public relations effort. He supported building a multi-modal transportation system. Councilmember Sifuentes agreed

that a modified letter would be sufficient but was unsure as to whether it would make an impact. He supported moving forward with the public relations effort.

On a roll call vote (5 ayes), the Council determined that the City would not respond to a May 23, 2010, editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* concerning the proposed 710 freeway issue.

(Putnam, Schneider)

Mayor Schneider announced that there was one additional public comment.

Victor Robinette, 921 Indiana Avenue, suggested changes in the draft letter. He supported the public relations effort, perhaps to begin by forming a committee.

Mayor Schneider closed the public comment period.

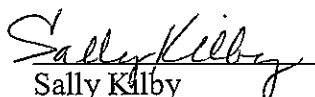
On a roll call vote (5 ayes), the Council directed staff to prepare a thorough response to this editorial and other items that have appeared in the past on an issue-by-issue basis and bring this document back to the Council for review and approval. The aim is to develop a set of approved responses to issues that can be sent without having to have a special meeting. For example, the City can develop responses to such issues as cost/benefit analysis, purpose and needs, and vibration, in order to be able to respond rapidly. On an amendment proposed by Councilmember Cacciotti and accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion, the City Council approved that after this document is prepared and approved, the City will work with other cities to enlist their support of the positions taken in the document.


(Putnam, Schneider)

ADJOURNMENT

By voice vote, the City Council adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:27 a.m.

(Cacciotti, Putnam)


Sally Kilby
City Clerk
CRA Secretary


Richard D. Schneider, M.D.
Mayor
Chair, CRA