

Esparza, Patty

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: Items 25 and 25, 2/18/20 Council Agenda

From: Galen Pickett <Galen.Pickett@csulb.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:15 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Items 25 and 25, 2/18/20 Council Agenda

Dear honorable members of the city council:

I write to you today in support of items 24 and 25 on today's city council agenda, both of which deserve your serious consideration.

It is extremely challenging to finance affordable development and permanent supportive housing solely through market mechanisms, and membership in the OCHFT would give the city more tools in supporting that development and in specifying the properties of that development. Controlling the financing mechanism for an affordable project, the city would have even more control over the direction of the development than in the usual zoning process and in the issuing of a conditional use permit. Given the fact that the money in the fund originates with taxpayers, we would be in a position to reclaim dollars sent to Sacramento and put them to use here, in the city and for the benefit of our residents. Surely this is a responsible expression of our determination to locally control development and maintain the character of the city.

Similarly, item 25 supports and protects the autonomy of the city. Several members of the council expressed trepidation at the "by right" character of possible development in the affordability overlay of the Beach-Edinger Corridor Specific Plan. In my opinion, it is doubtful that including 20% affordable units in any proposed project for the 6 overlay sites is feasible in this market, but if that is not the case, the proposed action transfers ownership (and an option on ownership) of two of the sites to the city itself, using funds that will have to be returned to Sacramento in June if not used. As the property owner, the city would have a large degree of control as to the character of any development on those sites. You as the city council would have far more local control than in the usual CUP process, as your input and support would be required at every stage of the planning and construction process.

Allowing these funds to expire and return to Sacramento, or declining membership in the OCHFT is tantamount to telling the state and county respectively that they know better than we do how to use tax dollars to support the welfare of our city.

With best wishes,

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SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Meeting Date: 2-18-2020

Agenda Item No.: 24 (20-1400)

<http://www.csulb.edu/~gpickett>