

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH GATE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
January 08, 2020**

**INTRODUCTORY PROCEDURES**

Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jovanna Laborin.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel and Committee Members Maria De Lourdes Castillo, Candice Esquivel, Yodit Glaze, Virginia Johnson, Jovanna Laborin, Angelica Martinez, Michelle Montes Miguel Morales, and Maritza Romero (10/19)

**Late Arrivals:** None

**Excused Absence:** Chairperson James Manual, Committee Members Juliano A. Jarquin, Claudia Sillas and Jimmy Torres (4/19)

**Unexcused Absence:** Committee Members Leah Hernandez, Susan F. Janer, Benigno Nunez, John Salas and Anthony Zepeda (5/19)

**Staff:** Abel Torres, Housing and Grants Analyst and Vivian M. Garcia, Housing Administrator

**AGENDA ITEM(S)**

**1. MINUTES**

Committee Member Candice Esquivel made a motion and Maria De Lourdes Castillo seconded, to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 25, 2019. The motion carried (10-0) to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 25, 2019.

**2. DISCUSSION OF BROWN ACT SUMMARY / CONFLICT OF INTEREST APPLICATION PACKETS**

Vivian M. Garcia, Housing Administrator, advised the committee members regarding the Brown Act that if you are in a leadership position with any applicant who is seeking funding, and could gain financially, you should recuse yourself during the discussion and vote on funding for that applicant. Also, meetings must be held in an open and transparent forum.

**3. DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FY 2020-21 APPLICATION PACKETS**

Vivian Garcia, Housing Administrator, discussed the CDBG FY 2020-21 application packet with the committee. Ms. Garcia explained that members should consider past spending and accomplishment goals of recipients in determining their recommendations.

**4. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SERVICE PRIORITY NEED LIST AND ACTION PLAN**

Committee Members were advised of the need to take the Public Service Priority Need List into consideration for funding recommendations. The list creates categories and sets public services projects into high priority, medium priority, and low priority based on a community needs survey. Vice Chairperson, Cyndi Esquivel, made a comment regarding the Priority Needs List that the committee may not award funds to an applicant because they feel that service, such as legal services, may already be well represented in the City and not necessarily because the committee feels legal services is not a high priority.

Committee Member, Virginia Johnson, asked about HUD's "wish list" for allocations. Vivian Garcia stated that

HUD would like for cities to have a domestic violence program. Committee Member Michelle Montes asked if HUD's priorities change every five years. Ms. Garcia stated that HUD funds have been drastically reduced over the past few years and that HUD is looking to make sure that whatever awards are made, that they are chosen well, out of necessity and meet HUD's National Objectives.

Ms. Garcia also stated that the Code Enforcement program was not seeking CDBG funding this year, and would likely not in the future, due to the strict requirements of HUD to carry out this activity only in deteriorated and deteriorating areas. After comments from other committee members and further discussion, Committee Member Virginia Johnson asked if Area 5 (Hollydale) added more CDBG eligible areas. Abel Torres responded that, after the 2010 Census, one or two more census tracts were added.

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Audience Comments:** None

**Staff Comments:** Vivian Garcia thanked the committee members for their work in allocating CDBG funds and their continued commitment to the community.

Abel Torres made the committee members aware of the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count that would be taking place on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Citizens Advisory Committee:** Committee Member Virginia Johnson requested clarification regarding the Code Enforcement program and the funds that would normally be awarded to that program. Ms. Garcia clarified that the Code Enforcement funds are from the Non-Public Service pot and could only be allocated in that category. Any funds that might need to be returned to HUD would be non-federal funds.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin requested that staff arrange "Brown Act" training for the members. Mr. Garcia will speak with the City Attorney and others to schedule training.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the time being 7:30 p.m., Committee Member Candice Esquivel moved, and Committee Member Angelica Martinez seconded and the motion carried (10-0) to adjourn to January 22, 2020.

Respectfully,

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Vivian M. Garcia, Secretary  
Citizens Advisory Committee

APPROVED:

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Cyndi Esquivel, Vice Chairperson  
Citizens Advisory Committee