

## MINUTES OF UCCA MEETING June 8, 2022

### HELD VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Diane Ahern, Mack Langston, Jemma Samala, James Beshears, Barry Bernstein, Barbara Gellman, Bill Beck, Merle Langston

**Absent:** Hallie Burch

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Diane Ahern.

**Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the May 11, 2022, meeting of the Board were unanimously approved.

President's Remarks: Diane Ahern (1) called for 30 seconds of silence for the Marine Corp. servicemen killed in the crash in Imperial County; (2) encouraged everyone to read the UCCA Newsletter with good articles on UCPG issues, zoning law changes addressed by the CPUS, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration plans, (3) congratulations to political candidates going to the final elections in November; and (4) reported on the Park Social program of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Arts Council for art in public places.

Ash Nasser, a UC business owner and former UCPG member, reported an increase of homeless people around the Whole Foods shopping center, the UTC Mall, and the Ralphs store because of homeless people using the trolley. He presented many photos of homeless encampments. He said people should use the "Get it Done" app on the City's website to report problems to create a "hot spot" for the SDPD homeless outreach team to inspect and follow up.

Kaitlyn Willoughby, aide to City Councilmember Joe LaCava, reported the Councilmember has attended meetings with the homeless outreach chief, interaction with the shopping center security, SDPD officers, and residents.

Jemma Samala, the UCCA Treasurer, attended the meeting with Council member LaCava and others and reiterated the importance of reporting incidents on the City's "Get it Done" app in order to create "Hot Spots" for the police to inspect. Homelessness is not just due to mental illness but due to multiple factors including drug addiction and loss of jobs/housing because of the addiction.

Officer Anderson Brown, of the SDPD, reported that if encampments remain in an area to do follow-up reports to "Get it Done" and use pictures when able. The police may refer the problem to the "Neighborhood Policing Dept." which have special vehicles and equipment to clean up encampments. He also reported that vandalism is the most common crime. If one sees homeless that are not causing a disturbance but may need assistance, it is best to call P.A.T.H. San Diego at (619) 810-8600 or the Homeless Response Center at (619) 880-8810 which operates 24 hours a day. It can provide or arrange shelter, food, and water. The police were still investigating how a fire at Shoreham Dr. and Rose Canyon started on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Capt. Alma Lowrey from the SD Fire-Rescue Department reported though their first responsibility is to put out fires, it also works with the SDPD to address homeless problems. Homeless people sometimes may intentionally start a fire but other times a fire may be started when cooking or trying to keep warm. If a fire appears to be started intentionally, the Metro Arson Strike Team (MAST) working with the SDPD will investigate. If homeless have medical problems, the Department will transport them to local hospitals.

Julie Wright, a resident of Renaissance, reported that they have had an increase in homeless people, encampments, and resulting trash. The shopping center in the area has added security to deal with homeless people. She brought up the problem that the trolley operation is not preventing homeless people from entering the UC area without paying for transit.

Jennifer Martin-Rolf commented do not use Get it Done if an emergency as response time could be 3-4 weeks later. Officer Brown said to use 911 if an emergency and 211 if not an emergency but more urgent than Get it Done which is best for long term encampments.

#### Legislative and Community Reports

Rachel Dugan, aide to congress member Scott Peters, reported he was working on gun control legislation. New interns are now staffing the San Diego Office.

Rachel Granadino, aide to Assembly member Chris Ward, (via Diane Ahern) reported the Assembly was working on plans on where to apply the budget surplus, including education, climate, homelessness, and inflation.

Spencer Katz, aide to County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer (through Diane Ahern) reported the County was working on a "resiliency" budget for long term homeless problems and provide social services.

Sabrina Bazzo, trustee on the San Diego School Board of Trustees, reported schools were winding down as summer recess approaches with multiple graduation ceremonies underway. Summer school programs are planned. A program, ELCAP, an equity teacher pipeline to develop goals for the future. In response to a question, she confirmed that summer school is available to all students depending on age and referrals by teachers.

Cole Reed, aide to St. Senator Toni Atkins, reported (1) They were working on a state constitutional amendment to protect reproductive rights, conception services and abortion services to be put on the ballot for the November election; (2) Add \$7.5 billion to the states "rainy day fund" in case there is a recession; (3) Create a \$21 billion fund to address climate change issues including water use and preservation, wildfire management, and sea level rise; (4) create a \$1 billion fund to address homelessness problems; (5) create a \$10 billion fund to develop affordable housing, including hotels for homeless people.

Chris Nielsen, chair of the UCPG, reported: (1) The UCPG will next meet on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm via zoom; (2) The City is making slurry seal repairs on roads in the La Jolla colony area which will create traffic problems in the area while the work is being done; (3) The UCPG will have a community outreach booth at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at Standley Park; (4) UCPUS (Planning Update Subcommittee) met in person at US High School on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Pictures and diagrams were placed out front of the building and 4-5 City Staff were present to answer questions. He said the City was going forward with its update to land use in UC but was taking out the controversial part of "up zoning" residential neighborhoods in South UC.

Barry Bernstein, immediate past president of UCCA, announced the City has agreed to keep close to \$44 million in development funds from projects in South UC separate from other areas so it can go towards community projects in this area.

Barbara Gellman, of Neighborhood Watch (NW), reported that the company with the "Ring" doorbells was offering discounts to UC residents starting June 1, 2022. NW will have an opportunity drawing at its booth on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The "Stop the Bleed" program (training on how to stop bleeding wounds until emergency services show up) will not be until sometime after July 12<sup>th</sup>. The program will be at Standley Park Gym.

Jemma Samala, Treasurer of UCCA submitted the report for May prior to the meeting. A new format made the cash flow analysis better to project the budget in the future. There is some discrepancy on how the UCCA is registered with government agencies that will need to be cleared up. California lists the UCCA as a "Mutual Benefit Corporation" (like an HOA) and the IRS lists it as a "Social Welfare Organization". The Treasurer's Report for May was unanimously approved after a motion by Barry Bernstein and second by Merle Langston.

Membership is 566 members at the end of May.

Diane Ahern reported she was seeking to expand the street banner program to include Nobel Dr. City approval is required, and funding will not be available until after December 2022.

Merle Langston reported that SDG&E boxes were getting decorated. She also contacted C and J Landscaping for a bid on a one-time cleanup of medians in South UC.

Bill Beck reported he has distributed 30-35 Newsletters at the UC Mall. He is looking into getting stands for the newsletters to place at grocery stores and other areas.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Barry Bernstein and second by Mack Langston that was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2022, via zoom at 6:00 pm.