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COMMISSION MINUTES **Thursday, August 26, 2021** **2:00 p.m.**

**Members of the public who wish to speak to the Commission during the meeting must submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the public comments for each agenda item of interest. Comments by the public on matters not identified on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the item designated as "Public Comments Period." The length of public speaking time is two minutes, unless the presiding officer grants some other amount of time.*

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Meeting called to order at: 2:04 PM by President **Alarcon**. Commissioners present: **Louie, Núñez, Thomas, Wirfs**. Also present: Assistant General Manager Edgar Garcia, El Pueblo Staff Ailene Ignacio, El Pueblo Staff Emily Wooten, and Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Soriano.

1. WELCOMING REMARKS.

Commissioner Alarcon welcomed those in attendance.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.

Commissioners Garcia, Ibarra, Marez, and Samarjian were absent. A quorum was established.

Commissioner Alarcon acknowledged guest presenters in attendance moved to take items 6.2a and 6.2b out of order. Commissioner Núñez seconded.

Vote: Alarcon, Yes; Louie, Yes; Núñez, Yes; Thomas, Yes; Wirfs, Yes. The motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS. [Taken out of order.]

Commissioner Alarcon introduced the presentation by the Mayor's Office of City Homeless Initiatives, The People concern, Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), Los Angeles Sanitation Department (LASAN), and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) on the operations of the El Puente Bridge Home. Edna Degollado the Director of Neighborhood Services for of the Mayor's Office of City Services thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present a slideshow on the El Puente Bridge Home. Ms. Degollado shared that the goals of the presentation were to provide an update on El Puente, introduce and re-introduce the team working on the project, and share next steps with the Commission. She noted that the team understands the negative impact of COVID-19 on the operations of El Pueblo.

Before discussing El Puente, Ms. Degollado shared that forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) has been secured to market El Pueblo over the next year and the creation of DiscoverOlveraStreet.com highlighting businesses of Olvera Street online. She stated that a storage container was relocated in January and bathroom attendants have been stationed at the Gallery restrooms. These concerns, she said, were raised by Merchants and other stakeholders as areas where support was needed. She continued to state funding has been secured for the Lot #2 bathroom project. Ms. Degollado stated that none of these items would be possible without the support of the Council Office as an introduction to Helen Amelga of City Council District 14 (CD14). Ms. Amelga is the Downtown Deputy Director for Councilman Kevin DeLeon's Office, CD14. She acknowledged the work to secure fifteen (15) months of rent relief and shared that CD14 has secured additional funding through the end of the year allowing for a sixty percent (60%) rent waiver. Ms. Amelga stated that Merchants would be responsible for paying forty percent (40%) of their rent costs. Additionally, she stated that funding has been secured for a PA system on Olvera Street.

Next, Ms. Degollado provided a history of the El Puente project. She shared that Mayor Garcetti introduced the Bridge Home initiative in 2018 to provide individuals experiencing homelessness temporary shelter while more housing was built through City and County measures. This Bridge Housing, she explained, was a bridge between the streets and permanent housing. She continued to share that El Puente was the first of twenty-eight (28) bridge homes to be built citywide; each home provides shelter, hygiene, laundry, case management, housing plans and navigators, job training, and other services. Ms. Degollado shared that they are proud of the work they have accomplished over the last three (3) years and introduced Corey Chester, the Director of Interim Housing at The People Concern. Mr. Chester shared that the El Puente facility has a total of forty-five (45) beds, fifteen (15) female and thirty (30) male. Mr. Chester shared that since its opening in September 2018 the Bridge Home has provided twenty-four seven (24/7) access to shelter, beds, security, and staff, along with three (3) healthy meals a day, housing focused case management services, an on-site mental health clinician, and life skills, wellness, and enrichment groups. The El Puente Bridge home, Mr. Chester stated, has served one hundred and eighty-five (185) unique clients since its opening. He continued to share that since opening the program has placed sixty-four (64) clients in permanent housing.

Ms. Degollado introduced Chief Howard Wong and Salvador Rosales from LASAN to provide an overview of sanitation operations in the Special Enforcement zone. Assistant Chief Environmental Compliance Officer Howard Wong of the Livability Services Division explained some of the teams involved including the CARE teams. Chief Rosales gave a timeline of LASAN's work around the El Puente program. He explained that CARE and CARE+ teams were on the front lines of the pandemic providing service to this community. He stated that the teams have also provided support for Project Room Key placements and continue to provide support five (5) days a week. Chief Rosales showed an example of the Health Hazard Removal signage in place throughout the entire zone notifying the individuals when services will be completed. He stated that the CARE+ teams on comprehensive cleaning days are comprised of two (2) environmental compliance inspectors, a large trash truck with an operator, multiple maintenance laborers, and power washing. He stated that El Pueblo's comprehensive service date is on Tuesdays with boundaries from Cesar Chavez, Broadway, Alameda, and Arcadia. Next, Chief Rosales included a chart comprising of hazardous waste collection from 2017 through 2021. He noted that the pandemic changed the teams' response metrics. He shared that the CARE teams are smaller, but still provide services and assure ADA compliance and hazard and trash removal. Chief Rosales shared images of CARE team services in progress, including images of individuals packing their belongings, health hazard waste, and altered pandemic response examples. He stated as shelter in place orders were issued throughout the City, this also applied to homeless encampments. He shared that LASAN switched from a comprehensive model to a spot cleaning model where individuals would not be asked to vacate the area. Chief Rosales noted some challenges upon the resumption of CARE+ comprehensive services including blockades formed by advocacy groups

and individuals still experiencing COVID-19 symptoms who were required to shelter in place. In addition to the services previously provided, LASAN increased services to include access to mobile showers and restrooms, personal hygiene kits, and when available tents, blankets, clothes, food and water. Alongside LAHSA, LASAN assisted with Project Room Key, Chief Rosales noted one family who placed into a hotel room and voluntarily allowed LASAN to dispose of any remaining items. He continued to explain that LASAN also supports the Civic Center Bridge Housing, whose zone includes the bridges south of El Pueblo. He shared more images of encampments and clean ups along this zone. He concluded his portion of the presentation by directing the public to request services through the MyLA311 website or phone app and S.A.F.E Centers for hazardous waste disposal. Chief Wong shared that they would remain after the presentation to answer any questions.

Ms. Degollado then introduced Colleen Murphy, Manager of Unsheltered Strategies for LAHSA. Ms. Murphy shared that she helps to coordinate much of the work on the streets, including outreach teams. She shared that she felt fortunate to be part of the El Puente program from its inception. She shared the challenges faced during the pandemic, but reported that outreach continued through the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated they continued to provide lifesaving and sustaining resources to people experiencing homelessness throughout the City and County. Ms. Murphy explained that LAHSA has outreach hubs, sharing that El Pueblo fell within the Downtown Hub, with interconnected teams all working in tandem within the region. She shared multiple engagement teams that proactively serve the El Pueblo area. Since January of 2021, Ms. Murphy shared that the teams have made eight hundred and ninety (890) duplicated contacts, but also serve almost three hundred (300) individuals in the region. She noted the region often sees new individuals due to its proximity to Union Station. She shared outreach around COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. Ms. Murphy shared that from January 2021 they have placed one hundred and twenty (120) individuals into interim housing and made sixteen (16) permanent housing placements.

Ms. Degollado expressed that much progress has been made in the area, but noted that there is still work to be done. She stated that housing and housing resources have never been more critical. She sought the support of the Commission to extend the contract at El Puente for an additional three (3) years. She hoped that with this extension, working with their partners and resources, they could make significant progress in housing the unhoused community near El Pueblo. She noted that security is a priority at El Pueblo and shared they would continue to work with the Department to mitigate those concerns. Ms. Degollado stated that some of the biggest concerns expressed by stakeholders included public health and public safety. She noted that, throughout the City, there has been a growth of encampments and limitations created by some legislation. She referenced work in Echo Park and Venice demonstrating the ability of the City to manage and maintain a public space. She announced that the Mayor's Office is working with the Council Office to put together a plan to prioritize the unhoused community in the encampments surrounding El Pueblo. She noted that they have secured housing resources, and with the leadership of the Council and Mayor, they would be working to target this area next month, and put in place an encampment to home model. Through the work of their office, Ms. Degollado stated that approximately sixty-three (63) individuals living along Broadway, Arcadia, Alameda, and Cesar Chavez, and hope that with targeted outreach and dedicated resources the encampment to home strategy can be as successful at El Pueblo.

Ms. Degollado noted that they intend to introduce new security interventions at El Pueblo. She stated that some of these interventions have begun deployment this week and introduced Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Stephen Nichols. SLO Nichols in turn introduced Deputy Chief Al Labrada. Deputy Chief Labrada thanked to Commission for the opportunity to share the work being done. He noted challenges faced by the City due to the pandemic and staffing issues. He noted that LAPD had to take a look at how to support residents and business owners. He shared their commitment to ensure a consistent effort to have Officers at El Pueblo, including foot beats and other operations to work alongside the security

officers assigned to El Pueblo. He hoped for better training and communication with security and business owners at El Pueblo. SLO Nichols shared that he met with Mr. Chester and Shannon Morales, two of the directors at El Puente. SLO Nichols stated they spoke for a length of time discussing the issues and concerns facing El Puente and how LAPD could assist. He stated that this would not be undertaken overnight, they will continue to meet at least once a month. He shared that LAPD has begun to deploy decoy black and white patrol vehicles in the immediate vicinity of El Pueblo. He clarified that these decoy vehicles are strategically parked without an LAPD officer inside and are intended to act as a visual deterrent to crime. The vehicles are placed in the morning, monitored throughout the day, and picked up in the evening on a staggered rotation. SLO Nichols shared that this strategy has proven successful in other areas of Los Angeles. He noted an increased presence during peak activity hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He noted an intended educational outreach to Merchants on LAPD reporting options including the non-emergency line and the community online reporting system. SLO Nichols stated he would bring cards to distribute to the Merchants to further explain online reporting. He noted this online reporting would help alleviate some of the long response time experienced on non-emergency calls. He continued to share that there would be Department-specific training for Allied Universal personnel focusing on LAPD reporting procedures for all crime and quality of life issues. SLO Nichols shared that he personally performed a foot beat patrol at El Pueblo and spoke with Allied Universal Security Guards on site asserting the need for Olvera Street Merchants to report crimes. He explained the difference between emergency and non-emergency calls, stating that emergency calls report a crime in progress or a life threatening situation. This, he continued, differed from non-emergency calls that still require a police response and are to report noise complaints, verbal disputes, or public nuisance. SLO Nichols shared that 911 should be utilized for emergency calls. He shared the LAPD Non-Emergency phone line at 877-257-5273 as well as the Central Division Front Desk line at 213-486-6606. He noted that the lobby at Central Division is closed due to the reemergence of COVID-19. Finally, he shared the website to file an online report available at https://lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409. He also shared his personal contact information including his email: 33059@lapd.online and his City cell phone number: 424-901-9996.

SLO Nichols introduced Tia Strozier, the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Central Division. She shared that she would present an overview of the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (NPP) and the resources available to the community to reduce crime and nuisance issues in the Downtown area. Ms. Strozier stated that the NPP is assigned by LAPD divisions to address misdemeanor quality of life crime. She noted that in the El Pueblo and El Puente area these crimes usually consist of repeated trespassing, thefts, or vandalism. As the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the area, she stated, she is able to interact with the LAPD officers and victims of the crime immediately after occurrence and handle the prosecution of those matters from filing to conviction. She noted this means she has direct control over the stay-away conditions and other terms of probation that promote public safety. Ms. Strozier shared she also works with the community promoting education and situational awareness, as well as working with other City Departments to address issues in the community. She shared more about the Central Safety Summit, an initiative taking a local issue and brought in a panel of experts to share expertise in addressing the issue both from enforcement, educational, and empowerment perspectives.

Ms. Degollado thanked the presenters for their time and support. She hoped that all stakeholders in the area would continue to work together to stress the importance of reporting, as that is the primary metric for LAPD allocation of resources. She stated that the support, cooperation, and patience of the community has been integral as they combat homelessness, especially during the pandemic, and assured those present that they are making the community's needs be heard. She assured those listening that the Commission, Department, and stake holders would be informed every step of the way. She thanked Riki Esquer of the Mayor's Office for helping put the presentation together. She opened up for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Alarcon thanked them for the presentation and work. She stated it was evident that their successful partnerships with Department agencies is a refreshing and fruitful endeavor.

Commissioner **Ibarra** joined the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Commissioner Núñez thanked Mayor Eric Garcetti for creating the innovative initiative, Councilman Kevin DeLeon for providing critical resources, and The People Concern, LAHSA, LASAN, LAPD, and everyone who had been instrumental in helping the program be a success. She noted that the Merchants still have major concerns and felt the presentation addressed many of them. She emphasized that security remains a critical concern. She inquired if Allied Universal would be participating in the Cycop program, an intelligence driven workforce management program. Joe Vidana of Allied Universal Security confirmed that this program would be added to the security program at El Pueblo. He shared that this entails installing an application on several phones to be carried by officers on every shift. The system will allow the security officers to report incidents in real time and submit to the Property Management contact list. Mr. Vidana noted that this limits much of the paperwork that officers are required to generate and will improve their response time. Commissioner Núñez thanked Mr. Vidana for the clarification. She noted that the homelessness crisis has been devastating for the entire nation, especially in Los Angeles, and stated that the care that has been put in to both helping the homeless and addressing the concerns of the Merchants and residents of the Downtown area. Commissioner Núñez noted that the report includes the instruction to potentially identify operational funds to offset the loss of parking revenue from Lot #5, estimated to be one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000). She wondered if funds coming from Governor Newsom would involve discretionary funds from the Mayor's or Council Offices to offset that loss as El Pueblo is self-sufficient in providing its own funding. Ms. Soriano requested that this question be tabled until item 6.2b was up for discussion. Commissioner Núñez agreed and moved on to inquire further about the Mayor's Office program called LeaseUp, a program to help identify rent-ready tenants, government backed renter insurance, and other initiatives to help place homeless individuals in permanent housing. Ms. Degollado shared that while she does not work specifically with the homeless team, she was able to provide a general overview on the LeaseUp program. She clarified that it is an opportunity for landlords in the City to offer units with the City paying some of the rent. She noted that the LeaseUp program is just one (1) of many types of housing strategies implemented to help place individuals into permanent, supportive housing. Ms. Degollado offered to assist in connecting Commissioner Núñez with a colleague who could share more information on the program.

Commissioner Thomas thanked all of the Departments involved, noting that it is a complicated and challenging situation. He inquired what type of mental health services and teams are in place for this particular area of the City. He understood the many security issues, but felt that much of the conversation over the past year has been shifting toward bringing in professional mental health experts to provide interventions in many situations. He asked if that was something they were working towards particularly in the El Pueblo and Union Station area where there is a high concentration of people with those needs. Ms. Degollado confirmed that they work very closely with the Department of Mental Health, specifically when opening Bridge Homes. Ms. Murphy noted that some of the individuals on the outreach teams are people with clinical mental health experience as well as substance use disorder experience. She noted other partnerships in place to help individuals with higher needs. She noted that there is working being done on non-LAPD response and other partnerships to meet the needs of the community. Commissioner Thomas further inquired about specific incidents that are clearly mental health related and to who those incidents should be reported. Ms. Degollado stated there is work being done to institute the Therapeutic Pilot Van Project, which is intended to redirect some of the LAPD calls to clinicians and other teams that are better equipped to handle mental health related incidents. She noted this service is not yet available City wide, but that they are working to implement it more broadly. She stated that in the meantime the LA-HOP app, managed by LAHSA, which allows the public to file service

requests at la-hop.org and a LAHSA outreach worker will be deployed to assist. Ms. Murphy noted there is a delicate balance between contacting LAHSA and LAPD and asked that an LAPD representative also address the question. SLO Nichols noted that there are some calls that are geared toward the enforcement response, especially when the individual is behaving in a way that is harmful to themselves or others. He stated that in the past these incidents were all seen as enforcement issues, but gave credit to all parties present for stepping up, recognizing the nuance of these issues, and working together to provide a successful resolution.

Commissioner Louie inquired about Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) trucks with dedicated mental health professionals on board and wondered if this pilot program was part of their response programs. Ms. Degollado noted that the teams have looked at different models throughout the City and other cities across the Country to put together a comprehensive program. She was unsure if the LAFD program was continuing, but offered to provide an update moving forward. She noted that in their research they analyzed a number of similar deployments. Deputy Chief Labrada elaborated on that noted that LAPD is still deploying Mental Health Evaluation Teams, consisting of an officer, usually in plain clothes, and a mental health clinician to address some of those calls. These groups, he shared, respond to calls after they have been deemed safe. He noted there is a continued effort to screen some of those calls through the Department of Mental Health, but noted that LAPD are still working on the logistics and hours of those situations.

Public Speakers:

Edward Flores: Hello, my name is Edward Flores, owner of Juanita's Café. Good afternoon everyone. I have a question for clarification at the end of my two (2) minutes. At the meeting with the Deputy Mayor, CD14, Management, and all different parties that were interested in that meeting Monday afternoon, the Deputy Mayor stated to the Merchants that we were given a sixty percent (60%) reduction for the fiscal year and at the beginning of this meeting the person that offered that sixty percent (60%) reduction said until the end of this year. That needs to be clarified, because that is a significant difference of revenue and time. If that could be clarified at the end of my two (2) minutes, I would appreciate it. You know, when this was presented to the Merchants, the Bridge Housing, three (3) years ago, it was unfortunately presented to us as "this is the way it's going to be and you have no input in whether it's going to be done or not and how it's going to be executed" and that seems to be the case here as well. You know, a lot of promises were made to the Merchants, actually in writing, and unfortunately a lot has not come to fruition and it's unfortunate that many of you Commissioners are so new, because you're asking questions that us Merchants actually asked already and had answers to already as well to see how convoluted it actually is. As Merchants here we had asked City leadership to get involved, because El Pueblo had become inundated with homeless, we had nude people on the street, inside the street, people pleasuring themselves, defecating, stealing, exposure to violence and mental illness and sometimes the same person involved in all these different things I've stated. I have photographs, I have videos of all of the things I just mentioned, not just aberrational ones, this became, for a period of time, normal. I've seen people being beaten, I've seen women being beaten and it's disgusting and its terrible that we have to be exposed to this. It should not be tolerated and it should not be allowed to happen here. There shouldn't be any level of leeway that has been happening here at El Pueblo.

6.2b. Mr. Garcia stated there was a typo on the Agenda, noting that the language for this item was printed twice. He continued to present the Departments recommendation that the Commission pass Board Report 21-008 related to various actions to use El Pueblo Parking Lot 5 located at 711 North Alameda Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 for El Puente, A Bridge Home Shelter, ("El Puente") for an additional three (3) years; consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis and recommendation that the El Puente Housing Homeless Shelter project be determined to be statutorily

exempt under Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) as a specific action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency as reflected in CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c); Public Resources Code Section 21080.27 (AB 1197) applicable to City of Los Angeles emergency homeless shelters; and that it is also exempt under Governor's Order N-32-20 because the project used Homeless Emergency Assistance Page 3 of 4 Program (HEAP) funds and categorically exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21084 as reflected in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land); and request to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a three-year license agreement with the Ocean Park Community Center dba The People Concern for the El Pueblo temporary bridge housing shelter. Mr. Garcia shared that this is similar to the action that the Commission took in 2018, when first adopting the report that laid out many of the same recommendations. At that time the Commission had a separate meeting regarding the license agreement with The People Concern. Mr. Garcia stated that this time the Department has collapsed both into one (1) report. He continued to state that Recommendation 5 was separate from the Resolution that is included and that encouraging the General Manager at El Pueblo to work with the City Attorney's Office (CAO) to help identify operational funds to offset the loss of parking revenue from Lot #5.

Commissioner Núñez returned to her previous question regarding Recommendation 5, reiterating her inquiry if the Mayor's Office or the Council can identify funds from the millions of dollars to be allocated to Los Angeles from the Governor's budget surplus to offset the estimated loss of one-hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) for the previous year and the coming year to help continue the vital programs that the Merchants and Staff provide the community. Ms. Degollado noted that three (3) years ago they made an agreement with El Pueblo to make the Department whole if through the presentation of various receipts establish that there has been a reduction in revenue attributed to the loss of parking in the area. In the first year of that project, she shared they worked with the General Manager and determined that that year the Department found an increase as the Department was active in securing funding through filming and rentals. In subsequent years, she said, the Department has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have not been able to fully analyze the reduction in revenue with the Department. She noted that her office is continued to work with El Pueblo leadership in determining if a loss of revenue has been attributed to this project and working towards making the Department whole if they are able to establish that loss. Mr. Garcia stated that the estimated monetary loss Commissioner Núñez referenced was established in 2018 and the value may have changed since that point. Commissioner Núñez continued to thank the Mayor's Office for offsetting the Merchants' rent and for working with Staff to establish the actual value of the lost parking revenue.

Commissioner Wirfs asked for clarification on the Report number. Mr. Garcia noted that the report is 0008 and apologized if there were any typos, sharing that any identified will be corrected. Commissioner Wirfs continued to share that he was happy that the Commission was able to play a part in addressing the homelessness issue in the coming three (3) years. He concluded by thanking the presenters noting the effort and heart it took to put together.

Public Comment:

Emily Martinez: Hi, this is Emily Martinez, independent Merchant. I hope I am in the right category. I wanted to talk about all these reports and information regarding the housing. You need to make sure that all the Merchants and all the persons, Placita Cultura, the Church are involved because I was fortunate I was informed about the meeting on Monday with City Hall and the Mayor's Office, but there are a lot of Merchants that weren't and you're not getting the information and how the Merchants feel about it. This happened before and it's happening again. I would suggest handing out a questionnaire, how you feel about it, and that way you know how everybody feels about it. But we're not being included in anything and just as Edward said "this comes to the table and this is what's going to happen." We'd appreciate the input. Thank you.

Edward Flores: Good afternoon Commissioners, Edward Flores, Juanita's Café. As part of the Bridge Housing project, when it was being implemented one of the things that was addressed was the homeless population around the perimeter of Olvera Street and as part of the implementation of the project we were told that that was going to be addressed and in fact it hasn't been. And it was stated previously, just a while ago, that because of legislation and court rulings, that that has impaired that process. But in actuality, if you look at certain things, such as the Oscars that were held just a few months ago, the homeless seemed to have vanished from the El Pueblo perimeter or at least within view of the Oscars, so it shows me that in fact if there is a will there is absolutely a way and that those court rulings and that legislation doesn't seem to effect Hollywood or high rollers, but it depends on who asks that they be removed. If it's the Merchants it doesn't happen, but if it's the Oscars committee that asks that they be removed for some reason, no problem. Just keep that in mind, that in-fact it is possible to do this and it's already been demonstrated that it can be done. Thank you.

Lisanne Magdaleno Lee: Good afternoon, Lisanne Magdaleno Lee, E-5, Rudolfo's. This is just a housekeeping issue regarding the Brown Act. I received the agenda through Ensla, the City website that sends it to me directly, but none of the Board Reports were connected to that and according to the Brown Act, you're supposed to be able to attach those so the public at large can read them and look at what's going on with El Pueblo with the homeless, El Puente Project. So, I again, was notified of this on Monday and the public was not notified through the City's website. They're supposed to put that out there with their agenda. It did go out to Merchants from the Office, El Pueblo Department, but it did not go into the City management system, so that I feel is a violation of the Brown Act so the public can know exactly what's going on at City Hall. Secondly, this whole project happened because the Mayor of Los Angeles, Garcetti sat here and made us a sanctuary city. So everybody else has come here and made us their home and when I've been down there with students or teacher friends of mine have told me "we're not going there until it gets cleaned up because it was very offensive to see, as you said, naked people around" unfortunately this didn't happen before and we can't blame COVID for the lack of people coming down to Olvera, this was pre-COVID. This was because of this Bridge Housing project that the Merchant's lost revenue and the Mayor's Office really needs to take a closer look at this. And thank you to Officer Nichols, I know your hands are tied with this and it's just very unfortunate that the resources from the Mayor's Office are being restrictive to our police department. Thank you.

Commissioner Núñez noted that she was reading the Resolution attached to the Report and felt it was beautifully written in the fact that it includes the mission of El Pueblo in regards to the preservation of our cultural heritage. Commissioner Núñez hoped to recommend two (2) historical clarifications in the language. In paragraph four (4) where it states "forty-four (44) settlers of Native American," she stated she would like to change that to "Indigenous Mexican," noting a distinction from Native Americans in the United States. She stated to leave African and requested to add "Spanish" before the generic term European to clarify the forty-four (44) settlers of Los Angeles. Commissioner Núñez so moved to amend the Board Report. Commissioner Alarcon seconded and reopened public comment on the item.

Public Speakers:

Call-In User: [Caller was unable to be heard due to technical difficulties.]

Edward Flores: Actually, I was calling in on behalf of Valerie Hanley to say that she was raising her and was not being viewed or addressed. I do not know if that was perhaps the person who was having technical difficulties. I don't know if you're able to see her or not, but she requested that I raise my hand.

Call-In User: [Caller was unable to be heard due to technical difficulties.]

Rosalio Muñoz: Hi, this is Rosalio Muñoz on this motion it sounds very reasonable and more clear than

the prior language, but we don't have, or at least I don't have the actual document to read and to see the entire context. I have one question, yes I think saying Indigenous Mexican, but if it refers to establishing the Pueblo, I think the Tongva and perhaps other Indigenous people, maybe from San Diego or San Gabriel, were also part of doing the work. In fact, we're part of doing the work of establishing the Pueblo, as well as the Missions and the Presidios. But I would want to raise that, perhaps at a later point, I like the change as it is without bringing in the Indigenous here in the Greater Los Angeles area. Thank you.

Valerie Hanley: Quickly I would like to appreciate all the hard work by LAPD, Sanitation, and LAHSA. They've been working really hard on this whole issue, but we would like you to postpone the vote on this. Let's look back at what was originally promised back in 2018. We got a letter, of course, from the City signed by the Mayor and Councilman Huizar's Office that we would have monthly meetings with an exit strategy presented to which after 2019 never happened and never had an exit strategy presented. More LAPD presence, we had some for a short time and then everything started to wane. The bathroom attendants, luckily that was still in place, which we are thankful for that. The reimbursement of the lost parking lot and the approximate number is very easily verified, you can go back year by year, because the parking lots have to present to pay taxes on the lots, how much each lot made. So you can actually go back to the years before COVID to find out what the last three (3) years before that. So that's very easily verifiable. And more marketing, which we really haven't seen. We only had our meeting with the Mayor's Office this last Monday and all of a sudden this is being presented to the Commission for approval. I think that is a little bit too small of a time span to actually go forward with such a large three (3) year commitment again with such a little amount of good faith effort on the part of the City that has actually been presented over the last three (3) years. So we really need to have things, again, in writing. We would like to see some clearance of the general area around us, that was promised to us at the beginning when we first started the Bridge Housing project and its actually gotten three (3) or four (4), six (6) or ten (10) times worse than it has been in the past. We don't want you to push this through just because it's something that is a nice project. We really want it to be something that is viable, not only for them, which is important, but for us, which have been here for over ninety (90) years with our families. It's extremely important for us to have this area be a safe haven for people, for it to be a healthy place for everybody that comes to visit Olvera Street, so Commissioners please take an extra two (2) weeks.

Commissioner Wirfs inquired with Staff if the language on the Resolution page is quoting the General Plan and if so, would this vote be somehow amending the General Plan. He stated that it sounds like it is quoting what is said in the General Plan. Mr. Garcia was unable to verify if the specific language was taken from the General Plan. Commissioner Núñez felt that the word "European" was very generic and that it was important to clarify that it was Spanish-Europeans and Indigenous Mexicans versus Native Americans as there were very specific Indigenous groups who actually were part of the original Pobladores. Mr. Garcia strongly advised Commissioners to use a separate discussion if they would like the Department to codify the specific description of the Pobladores. He respectfully suggested that this was not the forum to do so. Commissioner Wirfs clarified that he wanted to be sure that the language does not exclude the populations Commissioner Núñez described. He shared that his understanding that the language in the document was a broader, generic description without exclusion of those groups. Commissioner Thomas appreciated Mr. Garcia's note that this could be discussed separately. He shared that he had his own thoughts on this language, but felt it was not the format to go into it. He suggested that the Commission stick to the substance of the document. Ms. Soriano explained to the Commission the protocol on rescinding a motion as well as any amendments that could be made to the Document at a later date. Commissioner Núñez rescinded the motion with the understanding that the CAO stated that, in the future, it may still be amended by the Department. Ms. Soriano clarified that the Commission would be acting on would be to approve the Department report recommendations as listed in Board Report 21-0008 and the attached resolution. Commissioner Núñez so moved. Commissioner

Louie seconded.

Vote: Alarcon, Yes; Louie, Yes; Ibarra, Yes; Núñez, Yes; Thomas, Yes; Wirfs, Yes. The motion was approved.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public Speakers:

Lisanne Magdaleno Lee: Thank you. Just for comment again, I would like a copy of this meeting and I will be sending payment into Accounting. And I didn't get to say this at the last meeting, I wanted to have a comment for President Alarcon and the Commissioners. The previous policies that have been passed by the Commissioner, I appreciate President Alarcon, you're saying you want to go forward with policies and not reflect backwards. But there are policies that have been voted on and put forth by past Commissions that are still detrimentally effecting El Pueblo and the public at large. We have to go with these policies and I am looking at City Attorney Soriano, the way she's putting together or correcting the agendas now to include the Brown Act stipulations that need to be included. So I just wanted to say that to you President Alarcon, as I feel that you are moving forward with new policies. I do feel you need to reflect on what has been done in the past and maybe with the agenda, how it says "Commission training update." You need to look back at what they've done and there's two (2) sitting Commissioners there right now Vice President Louie and Mr. Marez that sat on these and voted on them. And they were very grave for El Pueblo. And with that I also wanted to ask about the concrete walking bridge that was talked about with the MTA. That was passed over very quickly by the MTA when they said that in their presentation, my question is "Is that phase one (1) of the Gondola Project?" Because I don't see a necessary, above Alameda, walkway, so there was no correction in that so I don't understand why we have to have an above Alameda walkway unless this is connected to the Gondola Project and its phase one (1) and we were not told about it. That usually happens with the MTA. Thank you.

Edward Flores: Good afternoon Commissioners. I'm very disappointed, because this was just brought to the Merchants seventy-two (72) hours ago and the email went out to you about this forty-eight (48) hours ago. I really think that you were severely uninformed and not in a position to make a really educated vote on this item. As was stated previously, a lot of promises were made to us that never happened and you were asking questions about the one-hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000), we were told by the Mayor's Office that that would absolutely be recouped. And then they went ahead and did some kind of nonsense with housing and so forth and said "well, you made more money anyway, so we're not going to give you that money." So to answer the question of whether we will get that money, the answer is no. If you make more money in some other way, they're not going to give you that revenue. But I think it's just terrible that you went ahead and voted this through and I think it's to our detriment that you did so. The unfortunate part about it, is that you don't realize it. [Ms. Soriano requested that Mr. Flores address only General Public Comment not related to the items on the agenda.] Well, you have plenty of time to speak your mind. You have an unlimited amount of time and I have two (2) minutes and I should be able to use it in any way I can. I mean, we have the guy come in here and use profanity and make goat sounds and you allow him to speak. So you should allow me to speak as well, unless you want me to sit here and rattle off profanity as well. Thank you.

Rosalio Muñoz: Madam Chair, Commissioners, Staff, and community. My name is Rosalio Muñoz. I'm here on behalf of the Mexican Cultural Institute (MCI) Board and Supporters to remind you that we requested at the last meeting to have time on your agenda sometime soon about why MCI should be returned to programming here at the Pueblo. This is a formal request that Rosario Calatayud Serna and I presented at your last meeting as reflected in the minutes. But we have to date had no response from the Pueblo. For your information, what we would seek to present to this board is about the quality and

popular programming we have done for the Pueblo in the past, then show how unfair, unjust, and inaccurate the decision to terminate our ability to continue programming happened. Then we will also bring to your attention the quality public programming we have done in the City and in Greater Los Angeles, and beyond in the recent years that we could not provide for the Pueblo. We would then discuss concrete plans for returning to program for the Pueblo on an immediate, intermediate, and long-term basis. Finally, we would also present the community support for our returning to do programming at the Pueblo. Madam Chair if we need a more formal or other way to present this request, to get a response please let us know so we can report on our efforts to our supporters and general public. And would like to use my phone for another representative of MCI.

4. COMMUNITY REPORTS.

Valerie Hanley spoke on behalf of the Olvera Street Merchants Association Foundation (OSMAF). Ms. Hanley stated that it was a shame that the Commission did not take more time to listen to the people on Olvera Street. She expressed concern that they appear to be an afterthought to the Commission, instead of something that should be foremost in their minds. She felt that what was effecting the Merchants, how business was faring, and visitation took second seat to City policy. She stated that while they are seated by the City, the Commission is intended to oversee El Pueblo. Ms. Soriano requested that Ms. Hanley keep her presentation to the Community reports related to OSMAF as her statement was referring to an item already voted on. Ms. Hanley stated that this motion effects how OSMAF and the Merchants are able to work on the street. She shared concerns over promises that were pushed back, not kept, then brought back to incentivize a three (3) extension. She expressed that the PA system was promised previously, that funding for the Lot #2 bathrooms was promised, but that these never came to fruition. She stated that the project is not a bad project, but felt the problem was that everything promised as support from the project does not come to fruition. Ms. Hanley stated that the Merchants are tired of being an afterthought as they are the functional portion of El Pueblo. She stated that the Merchants generate money for El Pueblo and the parking lots.

Ms. Hanley noted that the first point on the item reads "Olvera Street Merchants" and felt that should include all Merchants, not only OSMAF. Ms. Hanley continued to note that the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council should be returning to meetings in September. She shared that they are making exhaustive efforts with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. She noted that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment would be running the meetings, putting together their agenda, and moving items forward. She noted these efforts may be in place for a period of up to six (6) months.

Commissioner Thomas stated that he understood and sympathized with the concerns of the Merchants regarding these services. He wondered how one would rationalize that the situation would be any better without providing services to these members of the community. While he understood that there have been issues with how things were handled in the past, he could not imagine removing services for these needs to be a better solution.

Public Speaker:

Rosalio Muñoz: This is maybe a little off order, but when I spoke, I finished saying I wanted someone to speak on my phone, another representative, but I was turned off and not listened to again, you must have assumed it was me. But this is what I presented, for a fellow MCI representative Jimmy Ovalle, if he could speak right now or at some other point. But I guess it wasn't clear what I stated at the end of my time that I wanted to have someone else speak on my phone.

Ms. Soriano stated it was at Commissioner Alarcon's discussion if she would like to take the additional Public Comment. Commissioner Alarcon allowed Mr. Ovalle based on the technical issues experienced.

Jimmy Ovalle: Yes, Hello, Rosalio wants me to pass on that he thanks you for allowing me to use his phone to make comments. As I speak to the Commissioners, my name is Jimmy Ovalle, I'm a contemporary art curator. I'm also advisor to the Mexican Cultural Institute board. I find it very difficult to comprehend how as an art curator the board has been unable, I mean, MCI has been unable to put on any functions or art or dance or music for the last five (5) years. This has been going on all this time and no explanation, just rumors. And I find it very sad that they have not been allowed. There has been a petition online to keep the Mexican Cultural Institute at La Placita, Olvera Street, with over five-hundred (500) signatures, that we're going to present or has been sent already to the Commissioners. And I find that, I hope, somebody is listening, a newspaper or TV new program, that can search out why this has been going on for five (5) years. It makes no sense. Thank you.

Emily Martinez: This is Emily Martinez, independent Merchant. I was cut off at the Merchant comments, so I don't understand why that happens, I think there was one other caller and how do you determine who can talk or not? Do you know who I am? You know my number, this happened on Monday with the Mayor's Office too. Merchants were cut off, I was one of them and I don't think they like the way the conversation was going. You know, every time we get a new Commission, we still have a few that are there from the past. We all have hopes that finally some Commissioners there, all of you will get together and think about the Merchants. And just as Edward and Valerie have said, it seems like we are just ignored. We are a human resource of El Pueblo. We made Olvera Street what it is, our grandparents did, that's why the voters in 1992 voted to give us long term leases, over seventy percent (70%). And it seems like when we come up with issues, you're not addressing them, they get totally ignored. The City should provide us with more street police, because it's gotten so bad there the customers are like "what's going on?" And you know who gets the blame, who is blamed for that? They look at the Merchants. We tell them it's City Hall. It's not acceptable, we need more security. I've said this two (2) or three (3) times in the last few months. We need more private security, by the time we get them at the North end, they've gone or we've chased them away, because they're busy at the South end. We need more security. Whoever is in charge of the budget, and the guards have told us, we've told them we need more security and you're not giving us the security. And if security is there besides the police, that will help us. But Commissioners look back, read back on things that have happened and you do have to listen to what happened in the past because we do not want to go through that again.

Valerie Hanley: As you can tell Commissioners, there are several people that are quite upset and it's not just the two (2) or three (3) that you're hearing on the phone, it's the community in general. There has to be a way, and I'm hoping, that you will start to have in-person meetings, because you need to be able to see us. You won't have these issues of technical issues where you can hear people or somebody got cut off and things like that. You need to be able to sit and interact with us and to see the issues that are really effecting us. Most of you, I know, don't come to Olvera Street, some of you come once in a while, once or twice in a year to walk the street but to sit down and understand what we go through day after day is important. To be able to make good, rational, confident decisions as to what is going to happen, not only with Olvera Street, but with El Pueblo as a park, you guys need to be able to grasp a bigger picture than what you have. [Ms. Soriano requested that Ms. Hanley keep her comments to Community Reports.] Thank you.

Lisanne Magdaleno Lee: Just a quick note on the Community Reports, when they were talking about Olvera Street Merchants, those include the independents and they need to be heard. They're upset and I understand that, maybe this is a suggestion to add to the Community Reports, the Mayor's Office to be added to a monthly report, because that's what was promised three (3) years ago and I have it right in front of me, I'm looking at it, August 8, 2018 and I'm looking at the whole report and it was stated that there would be a monthly community report to the Merchants to discuss what is happening at the Bridge Housing. That never happened. So I think, in addition to the Community Reports from Olvera Street Merchants, now that it appears Mr. Garcetti has an agenda for El Pueblo, because this thing passed

really quick. All of you were appointed by him so I'm a little nervous about this Commission again. I hate to say that, but I am. There seems to be an agenda here and so we need to have the Mayor's Office every month report to Community Reports section to the Merchants because that is fair, that is what was offered to them when this thing was given to them three (3) years ago. On that note, I know this is a difficult project, I understand the homelessness, I appreciate Commissioner Thomas and all of you, however there is a lot going on here. This is the birthplace of Los Angeles and I am a stakeholder. I'm here from day one (1), my great-grandma so there's a lot of heart felt here. So please consider, or please put in the Mayor's Office for Community Reports, that would solve a lot of problems with hearing from the Mayor's Office directly and then we wouldn't have this kind of anger or at least a better understanding. Thank you.

Edward Flores: Good afternoon Commissioners, Edward Flores, Juanita's Café. You know the issue is here that we didn't get any guarantees for us Merchants. This project was going to happen regardless, and we know that already. You took their word for it, we actually have it in writing and it still didn't happen. So when you voted for this, you presumed that you were going to get all kinds of stuff. [Ms. Soriano requested that Mr. Flores keep his comments to Community Reports]. You are part of the machine that wants to keep us silenced. That's why you get involved, keep us quiet, you don't want to let us speak. You don't want to let us educate the Commission. Thank you.

Commissioner Alarcon thanked all the speakers for their recommendations and feedback, speaking of the importance of hearing their voices.

5. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT.

Mr. Garcia presented the General Manager's Report in General Manager Arturo Chavez's absence. Mr. Garcia introduced El Pueblo Staff Ailene Ignacio. Ms. Ignacio shared that as part of the team for almost six (6) years she had developed her personal and professional skill sets. She began with the Department as a part-time Museum Guide in 2015 and was able to promote to a full-time Management Assistant position in 2018. Ms. Ignacio stated that during her tenure at El Pueblo she worked in collaborative, innovative teams, build life-long relationships, and assist with coordinating engaging cultural events and activities. She shared that Friday, August 27, 2021 would be her last day with El Pueblo as she accepted a promotional opportunity with the Los Angeles Housing Department. She thanked El Pueblo's Management and Staff, as well as the Commission for their support and encouragement. Commissioner Núñez and Commissioner Alarcon thanked Ms. Ignacio for her time and dedication. Commissioner Louie shared memories of Ms. Ignacio's time with El Pueblo and warm wishes for her future endeavors. Mr. Garcia felt that Ms. Ignacio's professionalism would lead to a very successful career in the City and noted that having former El Pueblo staff throughout the City would be an asset to all.

Mr. Garcia continued to announce that this meeting was the last for Summer Ibarra, the Getty Marrow Undergraduate Intern for 2021. Mr. Garcia complimented her tremendous work over the Summer and thanked the Getty Foundation for providing students that have the drive and input to make El Pueblo flourish. Ms. Ibarra shared she felt it was an honor to work alongside the El Pueblo team for two (2) months. She explained that she felt encouraged to spearhead her own projects and accomplished her goal of connection the community to the arts through the development of a workshop and new tour. Commissioner Alarcon thanked Ms. Ibarra for her work and dedication.

Mr. Garcia shared with the Commission that on Monday, August 23, 2021, CD14 announced a sixty percent (60%) reduction in rent for the calendar year. This encompassed July through December of 2021. Mr. Garcia stated that a motion would be introduced shortly by Councilman DeLeon. Mr. Garcia noted that the majority of Merchants already provided forty percent (40%) rent payments for the month

of July.

Mr. Garcia moved on to discuss the Merchant Advisory Committee. He noted that previous Management was directed by the Commission to bring to life a committee that has always been a part of the El Pueblo ordinance since its creation in the early 1990s. Mr. Garcia explained that this committee would consist of seven (7) uncompensated volunteer representatives who would represent various business designations. He noted that, in light of the meetings events, there is a need for a forum for Merchants to voice their recommendations to be provided to the Commission. The nominations for the committee were due on Friday, August 27, 2021 and noted that there has been some confusion. He noted that nominations could be sent via email to El Pueblo Staff Darlene Lopez.

Mr. Garcia continued to discuss security reports with the Commission. He noted that there was a slight raise in incidents from three hundred and seventy (370) in the previous month to four hundred and thirty-four (343) in the current month. He suggested that this may be attributed to the Summer months. He noted a slight rise in intoxication, panhandling, and smoking, but also a decline in loitering. Mr. Garcia recalled the presentation from LAPD with more specific security measures to be implemented.

Mr. Garcia provided an update on the steering committee for the proposed 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre memorial. He noted that the four (4) sub-committees met between August 18, 2021 and August 20, 2021 to discuss design, funding, programming, and site location. Mr. Garcia acknowledged that Commissioner Louie is serving as co-chair for the steering committee and that other Commissioners have participated. Mr. Garcia expressed pride in the comments provided by Commissioners and the thoughtful process taking place. Commissioner Louie complimented Mr. Garcia's summary and thanked Management and his fellow Commissioners for their participation. Commissioner Louie inquired how the previously discussed rent reduction would be addressed from the budgeting standpoint. Mr. Garcia requested to table the question until the end of the report.

Finally, Mr. Garcia shared that Mr. Chavez has been in contact with Raquel Beltrán, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, to provide training for the Commission regarding Robert's Rules of Order. He stated that this has been planned since the beginning of the year, but was postponed due to staffing limitations. He shared that Ms. Beltrán and Susan Leahy, author of *Robert's Rules Made Simple*, were set to be present, but were no longer due to the shift in the agenda. Mr. Garcia explained that the Department is looking to provide training at the next Commission meeting.

Returning to Commissioner Louie's question, Mr. Garcia stated that the Department would work with the CAO to make sure that the loss of revenue is made up by the City. He doubted that the Mayor's and Council Offices would take actions to jeopardize El Pueblo. Mr. Garcia spoke to the Commission about discussing any loss of revenue. Commissioner Alarcon recognized that Commissioner Wirfs also serves on the 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre steering committee. Commissioner Wirfs suggested that a refresher on the Brown Act would benefit the Commission alongside the Robert's Rules training.

Commissioner Thomas left the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Public Speakers:

Emily Martinez: Emily Martinez, independent Merchant. I just wanted to make a comment on the Merchant Advisory, that there is still the option that independent Merchants can go before the Commission and expressed their concerns, being not involved with the Merchant Advisory group. I would also like to ask of the forty percent (40%) of the rent that we're supposed to pay, is that across the board for all the businesses? Or are some businesses getting another deal? So I'd like to clarify that. I'd like a clarification on the rent, is it across the board for all the Merchants? Also on the election

of the Merchant Advisory group, that does not include the persons out in the Plaza, because this Merchant Advisory group was made specifically for the Merchants that have long term leases on Olvera and I just wanted to talk about that. One more thing, it was said that some of the issues with the homeless are going down, well unfortunately, you need to take into account where we address this to security, because this evidently is not taken seriously and there are more problems than before. I disagree with our Assistant General Manager, we're out there every day. Edward has lots of pictures he could show you and its more than what you think it is as far as the homeless problems we have. Thank you very much.

Edward Flores: Good afternoon again, Edward Flores, Juanita's Café. Couple of things here. The reduction in the rent: when we spoke with the Deputy Mayor, he once again stated "until the end of the fiscal year." And at the beginning of this Commission meeting it was stated "until the end of the year." That's a significant difference in time frame and it really needs to be addressed. I'd like to get some clarification on that. If it's, in fact, until the end of the fiscal year, June next year, as opposed to December of this year. Also, I would like to request that the Merchants be provided the emails of all the Commissioners. Previous General Management was very resistant to giving that information out. In fact, I emailed Mr. Espinosa and he asked "for what purpose?" I told him it was because I wanted to communicate with the Commissioners, convey some information and so forth, prior to the meetings as long as it didn't violate the Brown Act. Thank you for your time and please see if we can get some clarification on that time frame for the sixty percent (60%) reduction. Thank you.

Lisanne Magdaleno Lee: Thank you, Ailene and we're going to miss you. Thank you to Ms. Ibarra for her service. You've helped out a lot and I thank you for that. Just on the Commission training update, Brown Act is wonderful, Robert's Rules of Order that's awesome, but what needs to be done is you need to look at the charter. What the Commission can and cannot do. What is within their jurisdiction. It's the LA Charter and Admin Code. That's the thing that has been violated and that's why I'm in a court case with the City. Also, other Commissions that I've looked at, that have sent information to me, they have a legal report that is in their agenda to say what is outstanding. They don't give information on it, but they state it so that way everyone knows what's going on with the venue. As with this last thing that happened with the Chinese American Museum and Mr. Espinosa, they threw away the Chinese art, and now they're in a million-dollar lawsuit with the City. No one knew about that and we found out in the beginning of the year this year, so that was kind of shocking. Also, with the rents, there is no Board Report on that with the sixty percent (60%). Is that going to be placed on the next Commission meeting so it goes before Council to vote on? Because in the LA Charter, which is part of the Commission's training, debt refinancing of any kind with your contract needs to go to a Board Report, go to Committee, and go to Council for vote. And I don't see a Board Report for a sixty percent (60%) reduction and if the Deputy Mayor says the fiscal year. That's a fiscal year so you're looking until next June according to what he said. Thank you and once again Ailene and Ms. Ibarra I thank you for your service.

Valerie Hanley: Hello Commissioners. Once again, Valerie Hanley. Ailene, you are going to be truly missed, come back and visit. As far as the reports, what they were saying about the comments [Ms. Hanley experienced technical difficulties]. ...what the person said, so I'm hoping that he lives up to his word. We ask if the meeting was being recorded and unfortunately nobody was recording the meeting, but there were a lot of us there that heard what was said. So I think the City, and hopefully the Council Office, can go back to the Deputy Mayor and revamp what was said and keep to the word that was told to us during our meeting. Once again, this is why we need everything in writing to be presented to us so that we can have it. Because from one thing to another, one meeting to another, things get changed and it is always to the detriment of the Merchants. We are always the second thought on everybody's minds and unfortunately we're one of the people that have been here the longest and maintained this place, and help the City provide service to the general public. And provide cultural events to the public in general. So, please, make sure that the Deputy Mayor does keep his word and we're able to have

that until the end of the fiscal year. Thank you Commissioners.

Commissioner Alarcon thanked the public for their comments and noted that she will be one of the Commissioners trained. She inquired if the Department would be able to find clarity on the length of time the sixty percent (60%) rent reduction would last. Mr. Garcia noted that as the information was new, the Department would be providing notification to all Merchants regarding the reduction.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 Commissioner Núñez motioned to approve the El Pueblo Commission Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021. Commissioner Wirfs seconded the motion.

Public Speakers: None.

Vote: Alarcon, Yes; Louie; Yes; Ibarra, Yes; Núñez, Yes; Wirfs, Yes. The motion carried.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Valerie Hanley shared that there were no community impact statements impacting El Pueblo.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS.

Commissioner Núñez hoped to end the meeting in commemoration of the East Los Angeles Chicano Moratorium. She shared that fifty-one (51) years ago on August 29, 1970, Rosalio Muñoz and fellow Chicano activist Ramses Noriega, together with three (3) key women organizers: Gloria Arellanes, Chole Alatorre, and Human Relations Commissioner Irene Tovar organized a peaceful march in East Los Angeles in which over thirty thousand (30,000) Mexican-Americans were in attendance to protest the war in Vietnam. She continued to stated that at the height of that war around ten percent (10%) of U.S. residents were Latino, but a study from Cal State University, Los Angeles found that Latinos made up about twenty percent (20%) of all U.S. troops killed in Vietnam. She noted that the peaceful event quickly became a site of police brutality after Sheriffs attacked and tear-gassed the crowd old and young. She stated by the end of the day hundreds were arrested and three (3) people were dead, including trail-blazing Chicano journalist, LA Times reporter, and civil rights activist Ruben Salazar. She explained that Mr. Salazar was the first Mexican-American journalist from mainstream media to cover the Chicano community, noting that many of his pieces were critical of the LA government's treatment of Chicanos, particularly after he came into conflict with police during the 1968 East LA Walkouts. Commissioner Núñez shared that she participated in the Walkouts as a high school student. She continued to stated that Mr. Salazar left the LA Times to become News Director for Spanish language television station, KMEX. There, she said, he investigated allegations of police officers planting evidence to implicate Chicanos and the July 1970 police shooting of two (2) unnamed Mexican nationals. She explained that during his time as the News Director of KMEX, Mr. Salazar became more outspoken on Chicano issues and gave priority to cases that were important to the Chicano movement, including the killing of the Sanchez brothers by police which brought forth a community-wide protest and coverage of the Chicano Moratorium, ultimately leading to his death. Commissioner Núñez stated that Mr. Salazar was struck in the head and killed when a deputy fired a teargas projectile at a crowd in the interior of a bar/café. This projectile, she continued, was a ten-inch (10) wall-piercing type of teargas projectile from a gun intended for barricade situations, rather than the rounds designed to be fired at people. Commissioner Núñez explained that the deputy was found to have mistakenly loaded the wrong type of round as the cylinders were nearly identical, noting that no criminal charges were filed. But, she continued, Mr. Salazar's family reached an out-of-court financial settlement with the County. She stated that Mr. Salazar's killing was a tragedy for the Mexican-American community, expressing that his was

a powerful voice forever silenced, yet continues to serve as a role model and inspiration for those who continue to fight for social change. She shared that he was a two-time (2) winner of the Greater Los Angeles Press Club Award and was presented with an award from the Equal Opportunity Foundation in 1965. She continued that in 1971, he was posthumously awarded a special Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. She stated that, Laguna Park, the site of the 1970 rally and subsequent police action was renamed Salazar Park in his honor. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to share the critical, Chicano, historical story in honor of Ruben Salazar. Commissioner Alarcon thanked Commissioner Núñez for her presentation and further thanked the public for their vital contributions to the meeting. She thanked Ms. Magdaleno Lee for the reminder that the past shapes how we move forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Alarcon moved to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Núñez seconded.

Vote: Alarcon, Yes; Louie, Yes; Ibarra, Yes; Núñez, Yes; Wirfs, Yes. The motion carried

Commissioner Louie voted to adjourn with a reminder that just as now, fifty (50) years ago the thirty thousand (30,000) present included many Asian American and Pacific Islanders marching along.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.