

www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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General Meeting On Zoom — 7 p.m., Wednesday, December 8, 2021 Program: State of the City, with Mayor Alex Fisch

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

The Real State of the City

Fellow Democrats,

I have three year-end items to share.

First, on December 13 the City Council will select a new Mayor and Vice Mayor. Outgoing Mayor Alex Fisch will be the featured guest at our meeting at 7PM on the 8th. Mayor Fisch is scheduled to give his ["State of the City" talk to the Chamber of Commerce at 9AM on the 9th](#). Admission to that event is \$60 for Chamber members, \$70 for the rest of us. Our event is free and open to the public. I appreciate him coming to us first. We will bring you the *real* State of the City.

Second, this Club will elect new officers at our January 12 meeting. I am willing to stand for reelection. Whoever is elected, I look forward to this group continuing to represent [the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party](#) and [the left wing of the possible](#).

Last, but definitely not least, it is time to [renew your membership](#). Our events are almost always free and open to the public, but membership starts at just \$30 per year and enables you to vote on officers, resolutions, endorsements, and other business. Please consider [making an additional contribution or signing up for a monthly donation](#). You may also be interested in a [\\$500 lifetime membership](#). It's the bulk pack: if you buy seventeen years all at once, every year after that is free. Unfortunately, political contributions are not tax-deductible, and I am sure some of you are planning your year-end giving with an eye to next year's taxes. However, I encourage you to [sign up to give \\$10 or \\$20 monthly anyway](#). I could say something here about [avocado toast](#) or [lattes](#), or that gummies at [Sweet Flower](#)

start at \$16 each, but instead I want to talk about why we need the money.

There will be at least two elections next year: a June primary and a November general. State Assembly and Senate will be up again, because they were just filled in special elections. Governor Newsom will be up for reelection, and Karen Bass' House seat will be open because she is focused on [running for LA Mayor](#). We have also started meeting LA County Sheriff candidates: Cecil Rhambo was at our October meeting and Eric Strong will join us this month. I remind you that, among other duties, the Sheriff is in charge of the County Jail, [which is the nation's \(and possibly the world's\) largest mental health care facility](#). For Culver City, the November election will include three School Board and two City Council seats.

We plan to spend \$10,000 supporting our endorsed candidates and positions. In comparison, the [California Apartment Association](#), just one of the many landlord and realtor organizations who poured money into Culver City's November 2020 election hoping to overturn rent control and renter protections and defeat the Measure RE property transfer tax, [gave Albert Vera and Göran Eriksson's campaigns over \\$8400 each and Heather Wollin's almost \\$15,000](#). [These campaigns also got multiple four and five figure donations from other housing profiteers](#).

During the summer of 2020, as we reflected on the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others, [the Culver City Police Officers Association collected \\$450 from each](#)

[of its members](#) to hire [a company](#) to produce videos, mailers, and [billboards](#) supporting Vera, Eriksson, and Wollin and [attacking members of this Club](#) and [our endorsed candidates](#). One retired officer personally donated \$10,000 to the CCPOA for this campaign.

So that's some of what we're facing. We will have more creative fundraisers in 2022, following our 2021 event with the Actors' Gang, but I'm also directly asking you for money. If half of you [give \\$100 instead of \\$30](#) to renew your memberships, we'll have \$10,000 for campaigning plus enough to cover operating costs, and I won't need to bring this up again.

Pledge break over. See you on the 8th!

P.S. If you haven't subscribed to our YouTube channel yet, we are just a few people short of the 100 we need to get a custom address like youtube.com/CCDemocrats instead of <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmKXXVvSo8xNyrX-z6bafnCjg> so please click through and sign on. Thanks!

For information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328 *OR*



[Click here to join the Club or renew your membership online](#)

Clean money for the California Democratic Party

By Cynthia Hart

Should the California Democratic Party (CDP) accept funding from fossil fuel and law enforcement interests? In October, a coalition of CDP Executive Board Members, Caucus Chairs and activists successfully called a special meeting of the CDP Executive Board to consider that question. Out of this meeting came a “joint subcommittee” to further consider the Party’s funding sources. Their report is due in February 2022.

There can be no doubt that the party needs money to fulfill its mission. As grassroots activists we can help the party align its funding sources with its values by making our small dollar contributions at www.cadem.org.

If a monthly contribution of seven dollars or more is comfortable for you, please consider signing up for the DEM 2022 donor program. The party offers its DEM 2022 donors a beautiful DEM 2022 lapel pin to proudly wear as an emblem of commitment to our party’s values. I’ve already signed up to get mine!

You’re invited to
A Mayoral Celebration



Come Celebrate Culver City's
First Black Mayor
December 14 at 7pm
Bar Bohemien
at Citizen Public Market
9355 Culver Blvd.
Downtown Culver City
LIMITED CAPACITY
RSVP NECESSARY
RSVP at
<https://bit.ly/3FVXx28>

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND/OR BLACK, INDIGINOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) FIREFIGHTERS IN THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

Whereas the Equity on Fire coalition (which includes Los Angeles Women in the Fire Service, Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California, Women’s March Action, and California National Organization of Women) have denounced the leadership vacuum at the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) that has perpetuated a culture within the ranks that women and BIPOC routinely face of rampant sexism, racism and abuse; and

Whereas female and BIPOC firefighters have called out Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas for ignoring, downplaying, denying, or actively obstructing any investigation into the cultural problems within LAFD. Abuses that include overt harassment, such as encountering feces spread around the female restroom, facing male coworkers as they expose themselves while pronouncing “this is what a fireman looks like,” finding racist items left around the fire station, enduring a steady stream of racist and sexist comments, and even being physically attacked; and

Whereas those who are courageous enough to file complaints are faced with retaliation, hazing, and retribution; therefore be it

Resolved, that Culver City Democratic Club stands in solidarity with the women and BIPOC who are hired to protect us and affirms that the rampant sexism, racism, harassment, abuse, and misogyny within the LAFD is a human rights issue that requires immediate and decisive action, calling upon LA Mayor Eric Garcetti to uphold his pledge from 2013 to “bring much-needed change to the culture of the Fire Department” by holding LAFD leadership accountable and removing LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be sent to the LA County Democratic Party, LA City Council members and Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Authors: Naomi Goldman (AD54) and Jane Wishon (AD54)

Adopted by the Culver City Democratic Club October 13, 2021

Comments expressed in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club

MOVE Culver City ribbon cutting

[On Saturday, November 20, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in front of Culver City Hall to commemorate the opening of the new bike and bus lanes in downtown. Mayor Alex Fisch presided over the event, which was attended by State Senator Sydney Kamlager and Assemblyman Isaac Bryan (as well as quite a few people on bikes). Alex explained the history of the project. Here are some of his talking points.]

Background

Welcome to the grand opening of Move Culver City! This is a historic occasion in Culver City as this is the culmination of a decade of collaboration, visioning and planning.

We started a community discussion ten years ago about the economic growth that we anticipated and the worsening traffic that it would bring, as well as advancing technology that could help.

The community and its leaders knew then that we had a choice to make. We could do nothing and deal with the community impacts of snarled car traffic. Or Culver City could become a public sector leader in the area of transportation mobility. We chose to be proactive and find solutions rather than watch gridlock overrun our community.

We formalized those solutions through the Transit Oriented Development visioning process between 2015 and 2018.

- This included a discussion of bus service and how to expand bus ridership.
- We discussed local rail options and how to make them easier to get to without a car.



Club Member Triston Ezidore



Culver City Mayor Alex Fisch

- We looked at electrification as a clean fuel and the positive impact it could have on our environment.
- We researched technologies that could turn transportation systems into mobility as a service—for everyone.

That process led, in October of 2018, to the Council's decision approving a focus on mobility as one of our five strategic priorities. Over the past three years we've made great progress and have started to reimagine mobility to connect us to our jobs, our schools, great shopping, and excellent dining—mobility options that enhance our quality of life.

Next CCBus is one such example of our progress. Through this app, Culver City bus riders can track every local transportation system. Gone are the days of wondering when the bus would arrive. Now, right on your smart device, you can see real time arrivals and departures. Out of 150 bus stops in this city, 75 of them have electronic signs announcing real time arrivals—over 80 percent of our bus riders only have to look at the sign at the station to know when their ride will be there.

Oh, and we have also implemented technology that triggers traffic signals to give priority to buses to reduce bus delays.

Why we're here today

Move Culver City—that's why we're here. It's a day to celebrate our next milestone toward local, sustainable, equitable mobility. Today we'll cut the ribbon on the first Move Culver City corridor in

our downtown.

This corridor includes CityRide, a brand new pilot minibus circulator that is a first-in-the-nation amenity. This is an all-electric, low-floor minibus that will provide first- and last-mile transportation to and from buses and trains, as well as help downtown and Arts District visitors move throughout the corridor, enhancing enjoyment of all the local businesses.

We've enhanced bicycle safety with dedicated bike lanes and bike boxes that allow a preeminent spot for cyclists at intersections.

There are dedicated bus lanes where our minibus—as well as buses from City-Bus, LA DOT, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus, and Metro—can move quickly and efficiently through our downtown and connect with the E-Line Culver City Station and Arts District. To me, this is a very special part of the project. We've spent nearly 2 years talking about essential workers—people, largely in low wage jobs, who had to come to work during the worst of the pandemic. Well, 57 percent of bus riders in LA County live below the poverty line, and a lot of them are essential workers. The median household income of our bus riders is just \$18,000. The \$10,000 annual cost of owning and operating a car is more than half of such a household's income. Now they can use the public bus on our public streets, without waiting behind the traffic of private cars.

- We've built bus and bike platforms for safer bus boarding and continuity of bike lanes.
- We've installed delineators and curb stops for safely separating cars and trucks from buses and bikes.
- We have added Bird as a new partner to Wheels, so residents and visitors can use e-scooters in the area.

And the road just got a lot prettier with the addition of Ballona Creek inspired asphalt art.

Now, with MOVE Culver City improvements, we have more options that are fast and convenient for us to move around.

With all these new additions to our downtown corridor we understand there



will be confusion for users as we get used to this new design. Please grab our “Take One” with more details about these amenities and how to properly interact with the new signals and signs on the corridor.

And before you think we broke the bank on this project—utilizing tactical urbanism, a fancy term for low-cost, scalable interventions that make our city livelier and more enjoyable, we planned and built this project for just 20 percent of the estimated cost!

Remember, this is a pilot project, the City Council has approved this project for a one-year duration, during which time we’ve charged staff with actively and critically analyzing impacts both negative and positive. And we’re making sure there is transparency in that analysis; the city will publicly publish a Key Performance Indicator report every quarter and will present a final report during a City Council meeting in the fall of 2022.

A major local initiative like this cannot happen without regional, state and federal partners. Culver City’s County Supervisor, Holly Mitchell, also sits on the LA Metro Board. She is an ardent advocate for Culver City and has a heart for bus only lanes and equity-based systems. Because of her LA Metro votes, the majority of funds for construction of this project came from LA County’s Measure M and LA Metro grants. Thank you Supervisor Mitchell.

Also with us today are Sen. Kamlager and Assemblymember Isaac Bryan who are also great Culver City advocates. Their help with a California Energy Commis-

sion grant for five million dollars was just awarded for construction, and another \$200k grant was awarded for infrastructure planning around this project. Without their support of the new state law that made it easier for Culver City to implement bus only lanes, we definitely wouldn’t be here today. Thank you both!

What’s next

Today we’re celebrating and tomorrow we get back to work. There’s much more to be done to reach our city’s goal of being zero emission by 2028, a full 12 years before California’s deadline.

Our Fareless System Initiative, FSI, will be expanded because low income kids, students and adults should have the opportunity for transportation to and from work and school. Culver City piloted the TAP (transit smart payment card) program even before LA Metro adopted it and between 2019 and today we’ve doubled student ridership to and from school.

- We’re also looking at additional circulator service in other areas of the city.
- We’re pursuing long term electrification of our city fleet.
- And we are one of the few cities that has shovel-ready projects—which is critical because it means we’ll be among the first to access the federal government grants just released through the infrastructure bill.
- We’re exploring how employer shuttles might use our dedicated bus lanes.
- And in January 2022, staff will bring to

the Council a short-range mobility plan that will detail all the specific projects the city is committed to launching in the next three to five years.

We are busy, and I’m so proud of our top-shelf city staff who are leading this effort. Many thanks to all those on the city’s staff who have worked tirelessly to make this day possible.

This project is just three lane miles, and it is a paradigm shift. But imagine a network of 300 miles, or 3,000 miles. Imagine being able to get to Burbank in 30 minutes at any time of day. It’s possible, and it starts here. So my final message is to our neighbors. Keep an eye on what we’re doing in Culver City and connect to us.



MOVE Culver City photos by Karim Sahli

Dear fellow Culver City Democrats,

As the chair of Culver City’s Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness, it is my great pleasure and honor to inform you that on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, our committee voted unanimously to approve a presentation for a Direct Housing pilot program for Culver City to help us achieve our goal of ending homelessness. This item will now be moved to City Council for consideration in the near future.

As you may have heard me speak on occasion, Direct Housing (also known as Scattered Site housing) is an integral part of any successful Housing First program and is modeled on the best practices from similar programs across the country.

This program in particular being offered to Culver City was personally reviewed by Sam Tsemberis, of Pathways Housing First, who created the Housing First model in New York City back in 1990 and is considered to be the preeminent expert in the field.

What a Direct Housing program will do is that it will identify those in our community most in need of housing and place them into housing that is already available on the market today, while simultaneously connecting them to the wrap-around services and programs they need to improve their lives, through working in conjunction with our county partners and existing service providers.

Direct Housing addresses the issue at its source by providing that missing element of housing, through master

leasing existing units, using a proven method which actually benefits participating landlords too.

By approving this program—one that is parallel to the program the City of Los Angeles is currently in the process of creating with their proposed Housing Now program, led by Councilman Mike Bonin (CD11), and former Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas (CD10), two districts that hold important borders with Culver City—we would be the first in the region to lead the way and

be the example to follow in solving this seemingly impossible problem of homelessness.

And I ask, “Are you with us?”

It is my hope that the Culver City Democratic Club will endorse this program and that you will approve the motion placed before you to officially recommend that our Culver City City Council approves the Direct Housing pilot program being presented to them.

Thank you for your consideration,
—Mark Lipman

The following resolution will be considered at the December 8 General Meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DIRECT HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM IN CULVER CITY

- Whereas Homelessness is the major social and humanitarian crisis in the country, state and city today;
- Whereas successful models for ending homelessness have been demonstrated from New York to Utah to California using the proven method of the Housing First approach;
- Whereas since 2016, Housing First has been state law in California and the mandated approach to addressing homelessness for every jurisdiction in the state;
- Whereas “Scattered Site” or “Direct Housing” has been an integral part and the “best practice” of implementing every successful Housing First program;
- Whereas following these “best practices” the Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness has developed and unanimously approved a Direct Housing pilot program on November 16, 2021, to send to the Culver City City Council for consideration and adoption; and
- Whereas the City of Los Angeles is currently developing a parallel program, the Housing Now program, giving us a regional partner in this approach to ending homelessness; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Culver City Democratic Club endorses the Direct Housing program developed by ACOHH and recommends to the Culver City City Council to approve this program to be implemented and included in the city’s 2022/2023 budget cycle; and be it further

Resolved, that the Culver City Democratic Club recommend to our county and state representatives (Holly Mitchell, Isaac Bryan, Sydney Kamlager) to work with Culver City in their representative capacity to help expand and fund this program into the future.

Author: Mark Lipman

I don't have all the answers...but I do know every single dollar we spend criminalizing poverty and houselessness is a dollar better spent alleviating both.
It always has been.
—Isaac Bryan, Assembly Member for the 54th District



Nearly 5 million Californians live within one mile of an active oil or gas site

A majority of these residents are from low-income or Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities—a testament to the reality of environmental racism in California today

THE PROBLEM

Of the nearly five and a half million Californians who live within one mile of an oil or gas well, one-third live in areas with the highest levels of environmental pollution in the state and 92 percent of the individuals living in those heavily burdened areas are people of color.

Studies link proximity to oil and gas wells to a host of health impacts, including increased risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, pre-term births and high-risk pregnancies, and in some cases, cancer. Oil and gas extraction produces air toxics, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like benzene and formaldehyde, fine and ultra-fine particulate matter (PM), and hydrogen sulfide. Other risks include water contamination, toxic chemicals spills, and explosions.

Kern and Los Angeles Counties account for more than 80 percent of the overall oil production in California, placing some of our state's most overburdened residents' health and safety at risk, due

to the hazards posed by close proximity production.

In 2015, the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) issued a report regarding the health and environmental impacts associated with oil and gas production, which recommended a health and safety buffer zone between sensitive land uses and oil and gas wells in order to protect communities where neighborhood drilling occurs. Despite this recommendation, current law does not prohibit oil and gas operators from placing wells near sensitive areas, such as schools, day care centers, residential homes, and hospitals.

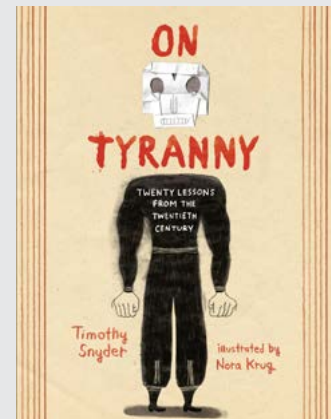
THE SOLUTION

[VISION](#) formed to bring together community groups and allies who are concerned with the impact of oil and gas extraction on communities in Kern and Los Angeles Counties. This coalition meets weekly, and has co-sponsored setbacks legislation, most recently [SB 467 \(Wiener\)](#).

Action Item #1: [Leave your public comment](#) and tell CalGEM to strengthen and defend the setbacks rule.

Action Item #2: Register for CalGEM's public workshop where you can voice a public comment. [Thursday, December 9, 6PM.](#)

Action Item #3: [Textbank with Greenpeace USA](#) to make sure other Californians get the chance to leave their public comment!



Lesson 9: Read Books

Historian Timothy Snyder, in full-on freakout mode after the 2016 election of Donald J. Trump, penned *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. "History does not repeat," he wrote, "but it does instruct." And in that, Snyder sees a kind of hope for 21st Century America. "Americans today are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism, or communism in the twentieth century. Our one advantage is that we might learn from their experience." We might learn twenty lessons.

Now, just in time for the holidays, there is a new, updated graphic novel version of the book richly illustrating the lessons. The illustrations are grim. The words are arranged on the page like a speed bump on a roadway. They are meant to be read slowly and remembered.

On this, my second reading of *Lessons*, I am particularly struck by "Lesson 3: Beware the One-Party State." In this pre-election year when we see Republican control of most state legislatures, control of the U.S. Senate through the filibuster, and a youthful Supreme Court majority that gutted the Voting Rights Act, the Republicans could be on the verge of permanent minority control. That's why it is critically important that the Senate enact both the [Freedom to Vote Act](#) and the [John Lewis Voting Rights Act](#). If enacted, those bills would undo gerrymandering, protect voter access, and restore the Voting Rights Act.

—*Cynthia Hart*

Because Democrats have a majority in Congress...

Here is some of the exciting legislation our California Democrats in Washington are working on.

[HR4496: End Homelessness Act](#)

Rep. Maxine Waters, et al.

This bill would, over a ten-year phase-in period, expand rental assistance to every eligible household. The Housing Choice Voucher program has a proven track record of success, but there just are not enough vouchers. Currently only about one fourth of the eligible households receive assistance. Millions remain on waiting lists while many fall into homelessness. Currently, many who do manage to get vouchers can't find a landlord who will accept a tenant on the voucher program. This bill would prohibit that kind of discrimination. The bill would also provide funding to build and preserve housing that's affordable by those with the lowest incomes.

[HR5 and S393: The Equality Act of 2021](#)

Co-Sponsored by

Rep. Karen Bass

Senator Alex Padilla

Senator Dianne Feinstein

“The Equality Act Will Provide Long Overdue Civil Rights Protections for Millions of Americans”—*The White House*

This bill would finally apply the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to LGBTQ+ Americans. Currently in 29 states, LGBTQ+ persons face discrimination in housing, employment, credit, and medical care. The text of the bill includes a finding that “conversion therapy” as a form of discrimination.

[HR3755 and S1975: The Women's Health Protection Act of 2021](#)

Co-Sponsored by

Rep. Karen Bass

Senator Alex Padilla,

Senator Dianne Feinstein

This bill was introduced to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. It further states that “Abortion-specific restrictions are a tool of gender oppression.” (Under this law, women are people!)

[S3212: Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act](#)

Co-Sponsored by

Senator Alex Padilla

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Did you know that noncitizens can risk their lives serving in our nation's military and still be deported? “Every day, immigrant veterans are falling through the cracks of our broken immigration system and forced into deportation,” Rep. Mark Takano said. Now Senators Padilla and Feinstein have sponsored a bill to establish a Military Family Immigration Advisory Committee that would review and make recommendations to the Department of Homeland Security in these cases. It would also improve the path to citizenship for these families and establish a pathway for deported veterans to come home to the USA.

CIVIL DISCOURSE WORKSHOP SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

Are you concerned about the fury and at times vitriol that many Culver City residents have experienced during difficult discussions? Have you been frustrated by “the other side's” unwillingness to listen? Do you believe this is harmful?

We need meaningful, community-building discussions—during meetings of any group and on a one-to-one basis.

The upcoming Civil Discourse Workshop may be just what Culver City needs. We will not discuss a specific issue. Rather, residents will craft civil discourse guidelines that any group can use when about to discuss a controversial issue.

The Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee invites you to participate in its Civil Discourse Workshop.

A facilitator from the [Institute for Civility in Government](#) (ICG) will educate us and assist us as we craft civil discourse guidelines.

Saturday, December 4, 2021

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Civil discourse training

12:00 to 1:00 PM: Lunch break

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Creation of civil discourse guidelines

REGISTRATION

This event is being held virtually via Webex. Please [register on the City's website](#).