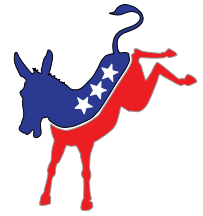


Culver City Democratic Club Active Democrat



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Email: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com • Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/culvercitydems

Post Office Box 4254 • 6695 Green Valley Circle Culver City, CA 90230

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Program: The Club will consider Superior Court and LA City Council endorsements with appearances by the candidates

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

Commissions and Omissions

Fellow Democrats,

After writing [last month's column](#) on how Culver City's Historical Context Study diluted and suppressed information on the city's history of systemic racial discrimination and protected the people responsible for particularly offensive acts, it occurred to me to put that study and my essay in a larger context, to discuss some notable governmental reports and how they have revealed and concealed systemic issues.

The [Kerner Commission Report](#) represents the classic paradigm. It was ordered by the Federal government in July 1967 while Detroit was on fire from civil unrest, then completed and published the next March, shortly before the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. drove even greater destruction. The Kerner Commission's chair and namesake was the Governor of Illinois. New York City Mayor John Lindsay was its vice chair and one of its most liberal members, alongside NAACP head Roy Wilkins. The other members included the Atlanta Police Chief and the head of the AFL-CIO, among other pillars of the establishment. The analysis they produced appeared bold, warning in its most famous passage that: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal" and argued that the unrest in Detroit, Watts, and elsewhere was produced by residents' experiences of racism. The reforms proposed were slightly ahead of what the Johnson Administration was doing but were largely procedural rather than systemic such as calling for racial integration of police



Governor Otto Kerner

departments rather than a rejection of [the paramilitary model created by LAPD Chief William Parker](#).

In this model, the transformative energy of a crisis is channeled into an elite panel, who move the [Overton Window](#) analyti-

cally to the left but practically to the right by proposing more modest solutions than those demanded by activists. Lacking the authority to write legislation or policy, much less enforce accountability, bodies like the Kerner Commission can serve as an [inoculation](#): injecting a small dose of the virus of critique into the body of the system to prevent a full-on infection.

On May 31, 2020, around 8000 people marched in downtown Santa Monica in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, protesting the police murders of George Floyd and others. [Police were unprepared and chose to aggressively confront nonviolent protestors while ignoring organized groups of thieves who took advantage of the distraction to loot stores.](#)

Let's rule out, for the sake of argument, the possibilities that police consider challenges to their power a greater threat to public safety than bulk thefts in broad daylight or that they allowed the looting to happen so that the protests would be associated with it and thus discredited. What happened next was almost as in-

See MESSAGE on page 2

Congressional Representative
Sydney Kamlager-Dove will
sponsor the May meeting of the
Culver City Democratic Club

From MESSAGE on page 1

criminating as those scenarios.

SMPD promised an internal investigation, to be completed by August. They paid a company called Field Command, consisting of two former LA County Sheriff Deputies who were friends of the Police Chief, \$25,000 to conduct it for them. What kind of internal investigation is done by external consultants? We may never know. The draft turned in by Field Command was heavily revised by SMPD, then submitted to Acting City Manager Lane Dilg. She was offended by this tampering and rejected the report, but protected the police by not telling the City Council anything about this draft, according to [Los Angeles Magazine's essential reporting](#). She covered up the cover up. The Council then ordered a second outside review without knowing a first one existed. By the time [that report](#) appeared, in May 2021, both Dilg and SMPD's Chief had moved on to other jobs. There were no consequences for SMPD's choices on May 31, 2020 or for their and Dilg's interference with the inquiry. In fact, the outcome was [an increase in resources and authority for surveillance and suppression of activists](#).

At their February 15, 2023 meeting, the LA City Council approved [a motion by Member Katy Yaroslavsky](#) to conduct a full audit of the implementation of LA Municipal Code section 41:18, which bans sitting, sleeping, and other uses of public space by people without homes. The report was submitted that November and has been suppressed since, although it [leaked to journalists in March](#) and [the summary is available online](#). It confirms the findings of [the study conducted by UCLA's Luskin Center in March 2021 on the outcomes of the Echo Park Lake sweep](#) and shows that progressive critics such as DSA, Black Lives Matter, Nithya Raman, Mike Bonin, Hugo Soto-Martinez, Eunisses Hernandez, et al, have consistently been correct, while the political establishment to their right has been shoveling money into systems which actively harm those most in need. Like the initial SMPD report, the 41:18 audit is being buried because its results threaten the status quo.

In January 2021 the State Attorney General's office began an investigation of the LA County Sheriff's Department. On

April 24, 2024, journalist Cerise Castle, who has done [the definitive work on deputy gangs and other forms of corruption in LASD](#), reported that the AG's report has been [presented to LASD, the County Supervisors, the County Inspector General, and the Sheriff's professional association, but kept from the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission and the public](#). The last time the AG investigated a law enforcement agency was in 2020. Then, the Kern County Sheriff reached a settlement agreement with the State and the report was never made public. Castle's reporting suggests a similar outcome is likely for LA. Again, a damning report will be suppressed, and we see how thoroughly law enforcement has protected itself from oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Consider also the City of Santa Monica's handling of the case of Eric Uller. While working for the City's IT department in the 1980s, Uller ingratiated himself with the officers running the Police Activities League. [He used this access to children and affiliation with the police to abuse hundreds of boys over three decades, then killed himself the night before his trial. Santa Monica has paid out record settlements to his victims who have come forward, on the condition that there will be no further charges or investigations.](#) Every Santa Monica program will be impacted by the cost of these settlements for years to come, with the initial batch of payments borrowed against affordable housing funds, but the extent to which SMPD and PAL staff ignored red flags or were complicit in Uller's crimes will never be known and no one will be held accountable. The settlements are both restitution and hush money. The City's reasonable desire to protect itself from being bankrupted by litigation also protects the guilty, many of whom wore badges.

Last month's column described how Culver City Council Members Albert Vera Jr, Göran Eriksson, and Dan O'Brien, City Manager John Nachbar, and Police Chiefs Manny Cid and Jason Sims have worked in various combinations over the last four years to bury, dilute, and undermine studies that threatened conservative hegemony. This month I'd like to expand on two cases.

When Culver City's City Council faced the challenges to police power coming out of Black Lives Matter and other ab-

olitionist groups in the summer of 2020, City Manager Nachbar recommended they commission two studies: one assessing CCPD organizationally and one assessing its social impacts. The Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) and Solidarity Consulting respectively were hired for these projects. When the reports came in, they were treated as opposing viewpoints: one written by police, the other by a progressive social scientist, even though they were given different assignments and produced texts appropriate to those assignments. The CPSM report is essentially descriptive, a prose version of the department's mission statement, organizational chart, and budget, while the Solidarity report applied the work of scholars such as [Alex Vitale](#), [Ruth Wilson Gilmore](#), [Barry Friedman](#), and [Kelly Lytle Hernandez](#) to the local situation and proposed specific major policy changes. CPSM's representatives understood the assignment and declined to comment on policy questions at Council meetings, deferring to Solidarity.

The [Warren Report](#) may be the most ambitious government report in history. One of the most beloved American Presidents was murdered in broad daylight, by a strange man who was himself killed two days later, live on TV, by a mobbed-up nightclub owner, before he could be tried. Lyndon Johnson created the Warren Commission to make sense of this trauma. It was chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and included national legislators from both parties, as well as former heads of the World Bank and the CIA. That may sound like a gathering of the Illuminati now, but the intention was to get the most authoritative figures possible together to agree on a narrative, in order to maintain a unified consensus reality. This may not have been successful, as the countless alternative versions highlighted by the fictionalized works of [Don DeLillo](#), [Oliver Stone](#), and [James Ellroy](#) show, but it is the model for every major crisis report since, up to the [January 6 Select Committee](#). In times of crisis, the experts gather to get the facts straight so the community can agree on what happened and what should be done. Culver City did the opposite of this. Rather than attempting to establish a shared understanding of the problem, or even a common body of data, City

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Manager Nachbar chose to create a “they said/they said” situation which allowed everyone to choose the “facts” and “experts” that supported what they already believed.

What mattered about the CPSM report was not what it said but that it was police assessing themselves at a moment when that authority was in question. [The CPSM team](#) was almost entirely police chiefs. Police have long demanded the power to evaluate themselves. If you submit a complaint about CCPD on [the City’s Fraud, Waste, and Abuse hotline](#), you will be contacted by someone from CCPD. Complaints about any other City department go to the City’s Fraud, Waste, and Abuse team.

The events of 2020 should have changed this. [The Minneapolis Police Department’s initial statement on the murder of George Floyd](#), entitled “Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction,” should have been enough for no City to allow a police department to ever issue another press release and for no journalist to publish one without independent verification. “Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction” should live in infamy alongside [“The Sound of Children Screaming Has Been Removed”](#) but instead liberal cities such as Santa Monica and Culver City hired cops from more conservative areas to evaluate their police.

[The content of the CPSM report](#) mattered so little that City Manager Nachbar, Police Chief Cid, and Council Members Eriksson and Vera confidently put it forward as a refutation of the Solidarity report, because it represented police’s exclusive claim to judge themselves. They gambled that few people, if any, would read it. I did, and I can tell you that the contents, despite being signed by people with Thin Blue Line flags on their Twitter profiles, shamed CCPD.

For example, on pages 96-99, the CPSM report notes that CCPD was in the process of creating a SWAT team, which was paused at the start of the pandemic. CPSM recommended against resuming this project, noting it would be “a huge burden to the agency” (98). Chief Cid defied this recommendation and, at the height of public concern about police vi-

olence, proceeded with this heightened militarization.

On page 129 the report mentions that CCPD had given incorrect numbers to the FBI for the Uniform Crime Report because “the Records supervisor did not understand the FBI criteria for Part 1 felony case clearance, which results in artificially high case clearance rate.” CCPD had falsely overstated their ability to solve the most serious crimes. CPSM did not state how far back this went, no one was held accountable, and no retroactive corrections were made.

On pages 34-35, CPSM found that CCPD sent out twice as many officers per call as most departments. When asked about this, Chief Cid explained it was an error created by miscommunication between CCPD and CPSM, but again, there was no accountability or correction. Do these failures represent indifference, incompetence, or sabotage?

During the 2020 reckoning, Culver City’s City Council asked Raimi and Associates, who were already working on the General Plan Update, to conduct a survey on perceptions of public safety in Culver City. [The results were complex, because this is a complex issue](#). However, this survey just measured perceptions. The respondents’ feelings about CCPD do not change the facts, shown by [the Attorney General’s Racial Identity Profiling Advisory Board annual reports](#) that it is one of the most biased departments in the state for pulling over, searching, arresting, and using force against people of color.

Substituting opinion for fact is also the primary technique used to justify the conservative Council majority’s ongoing attempt to remove the protected bike lanes from Move Culver City. [The City published monthly data on the project and more detailed reports at the middle and end of the year-long pilot](#). There was no shortage of public information, verified and compiled by City staff and consultants and it all showed that having a dedicated bus lane and a protected bike lane had enhanced the safety, speed, and popularity of public and human-powered transit with little effect on cars. The studies used cell phone data to track every car passing through downtown and found a maximum added delay of four minutes. Not average: maximum.

As the end of the pilot year for Move approached, it was clear all the evidence supported it continuing and expanding. However, Culver Steps developer and landlord Michael Hackman had spent over \$600,000 to elect Council Member Dan O’Brien, creating a conservative majority committed to serving those, like Hackman, who blamed Move for increased traffic and diminished business revenues. How could Council Members O’Brien, Eriksson, Vera deliver for their backers when the data unambiguously proved them wrong?

Rather than simply ignore the evidence, they created alternative facts. [The City commissioned a public opinion poll on Move](#), then the conservative Council majority cited it to justify undoing the project. Only Culver City residents were polled, and they represent a small percentage of Move users. It is offensive to put the feelings of the four hundred locals who answered the survey over the facts. It disrespects the City staff and consultants who worked on this project, and wastes the taxpayer money used to pay them. More importantly, it breaches our sense of a shared reality.

Unlike the case of the Warren, Kerner, and other national commissions, the Move opinion poll was intended to destroy consensus, not create it. Rather than bringing people together to make decisions based on an accepted body of evidence, it degrades the status of that evidence. The feelings of a couple of hundred residents are given equal weight to data compiled and evaluated by multiple groups of experts. The poll does not demonstrate that Move is bad; it demonstrates that Move’s critics are misinformed. That proves they should be listened to less, not more.

Opinion polling is rare in Culver City politics, but watch for this substitution of feelings for facts in larger political contexts. A poll about whether Americans consider climate change a threat will tell you how Americans feel about climate change, but it says nothing about whether the climate is changing. City Manager Nachbar and Council Members O’Brien, Eriksson, and Vera are basing major decisions on errors of this type. I don’t know if they are cynics or if they have pulled the wool over their own eyes, but we require and deserve [reality-based](#) leadership.

May endorsements— candidate background briefing

At our last meeting Club members decided that the Los Angeles City Council runoffs in November were important enough that we should vote on endorsements. At our Club meeting on May 8 we will consider endorsement in three Los Angeles City Council Districts (2, 10, and 14) and two Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge races (135 and 137). LAist compiled a useful [guide to guides](#) for voters if you would like to look up candidate recommendations.

We won't have time to hear from Los Angeles City Councilmember candidates in depth at our May meeting, so I highly recommend you give a listen to the candidate interviews by former City Councilmember Mike Bonin on his podcast, What's Next Los Angeles with Mike Bonin. Bonin was a journalist before he was a city council member. His questions are grounded in his lived experience from his time as a former staffer and elected official. I found his interviews really helpful in getting to know candidates [Heather Hutt](#), [Jillian Burgos](#), and [Ysabel Jurado](#).

I couldn't find similar in-depth interviews of the other candidates, but, to hear [Adrin Nazarian](#), [Kevin DeLeon](#) and [Grace Yoo](#), check out the LA City Council District forums from LA Forward and KidScoop Media. In the LA Forward Council District 2 forum, Adrin Nazarian makes an opening statement, discusses Public Safety, Social Housing, Climate, City Council Expansion, and gives a closing statement. In the LA Forward Council District 10 forum, Grace Yoo makes

an [Opening Statement](#), and discusses [Public Safety](#), Social Housing, Council Expansion, Mobility, Climate, and makes a closing Statement.

Or check our Club [video](#) of the CD 10 Candidate forum.

Here are their websites:

CD 2

[Jillian Burgos](#)
[Adrin Nazarian](#)

In the CD2 race, former Culver City Mayor Daniel Lee has endorsed Jillian Burgos and Culver City School Board VP Triston Ezidore has endorsed Adrin Nazarian

CD 10

[Grace Yoo](#)
[Heather Hutt](#)

In the CD 10 race, Culver City Council member Albert Vera has endorsed Heather Hutt (her website says "Alex Vera" so this may not be correct)

CD 14

[Ysabel Jurado](#)
[Kevin DeLeon](#)

In the CD4 race, former Culver City Mayor Daniel Lee and Culver City School Board member Stephanie Loreda have endorsed Ysabel Jurado

Superior Court office 135

[Georgia Huerta](#)
[Steven Mac](#)

Video of [Stephen Mac](#) at the CCDC

Superior Court office 137

[Tracey Blount](#)
[Luz Herrera](#)

by *Leah Pressman*



Club member Michelle Weiner



Culver City School Board President (and Club member) Kelly Kent with her father (and Club member) John Kent.

Join or Renew Your Culver City Democratic Club Membership!

[To Join the Culver City Democratic Club](#)
[CLICK HERE for the Club's ActBlue page](#)

Join the Culver City Democratic Club for a \$30 donation!

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



Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

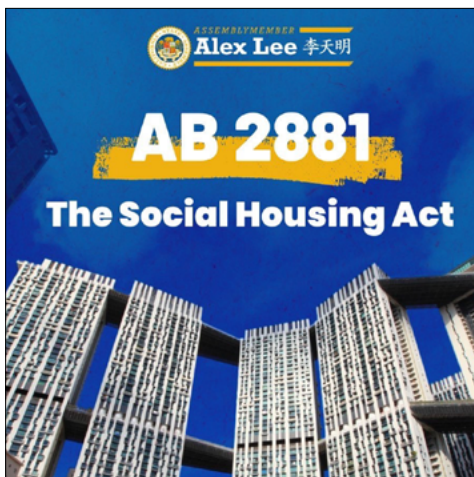
Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is still in rehab, doing better. She has started to get up and walk with the walker. Her doctor tells her she still isn't ready to go back home yet. Her attitude is still very positive. Misses everybody.

On April 21 the California Democratic Party had elections for district level delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August.

California Democrats will send 496 delegates and 35 alternates to the Democratic National Convention this year. All pledged delegates are allocated to the presidential candidates according to the results of the March 5 Primary.

On April 21, Jimmie Woods-Gray, Pamela Sparrow and Michelle Reed were the female delegates elected to represent CD37. CD 37 has 3 females, 3 males and 1 male alternate.

For the full list go to [CADEM.org](https://www.cadem.org) [Democratic National Convention](https://www.cadem.org).



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Club email address: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com



May 8 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting on Zoom

[Click here to register](#)



May 9 • 5 PM

An Evening with Superintendent Dr. Brian Lucas

Featuring Student Performances and Future Plans for CCUSD
State of the District Reception 5 to 6pm with program to follow

May 13 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

May 14

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

May 28

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

May 28 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

[4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration & Resource Fair](#)

Sponsored by LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell's office

Save the Date: Friday, June 21 • 4 PM-8 PM

New Location: Victoria Community Regional Park

419 Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Carson, CA 90746

Work > Worry Wednesday=The first Wednesday of every month

That's when we come together, stop our doomscrolling, and get busy writing postcards and letters to swing state voters. It's this kind of direct voter outreach that will keep Republicans from ending American democracy in November which, y'know, would be bad. So join us on Wednesday June 5 from 5 to 7pm and let's get to work!

Address provided upon [RSVP](#)

SAVE THE DATE

The Club Independence Day picnic will be

NOON until 4PM on JUNE 30

at Veterans Memorial Park

Ongoing

Grassroots Democratic Headquarters

Offers volunteer opportunities to flip the House!

Choose from in-person or virtual phonebanking,

textbanking, postcarding and canvassing

<https://linktr.ee/grassrootsdemhq>



It's a lovely time when Club members get together. On Friday April 19 we met up at the Industry Cafe and Jazz to hear the Club President's jazz combo play, eat amazing Eritrean food, and hang out in person. Thanks to Shannon Theus putting this together! We look forward to hearing about more Club social events.

New CCDC t-shirts are here!



We are now accepting orders for Club t-shirts in a new design, refreshed for our 70th anniversary.

Shirts are 100% cotton, union made in Boyle Heights.

They come in small, medium, large, and extra-large and, for the first time, we have Men's (boxy) and Women's (fitted) cuts.

Place your order by donating \$20 (or more!) via [Act Blue](#) and emailing us at CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com your desired size and cut. We will deliver in Culver City and nearby; other orders will be mailed.

We also have a few shirts remaining with the previous design (now known as "heritage" or "throwback") shown below.



Culver City Unified School District

State of the District

An Evening with Superintendent Dr. Brian Lucas
Featuring Student Performances and Future Plans for CCUSD

Thursday, May 9th
at the Robert Frost Auditorium
Reception 5-6pm with Program to Follow

Free to attend!

CCDC

April report of the Legislative Committee

At the April meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club, the membership voted to endorse the following bills:

[AB2684](#) (Bryan) Safety Element-Extreme Heat—requires local jurisdictions to address extreme heat in the safety element of their general plans or local hazard mitigation plans.

Assemblyman Bryan explains:

“Our cities, our counties, our local jurisdictions don’t plan for urban heat. It just hits every year and it’s the hottest year on record every single year. We set up a cooling center and pray that our seniors make it out of their house to this cooling center where I guess they’ll just sit all day. That’s not really a plan. We have hazard mitigation plans and disaster plans that cities and counties prepare. This bill proposes requiring local jurisdictions to prepare for urban heat in a meaningful way. It matters because if you have a disaster plan in a local jurisdiction and something happens against that plan, you are eligible for federal dollars, you’re eligible for FEMA dollars.”

[FACT SHEET](#)

[AB2716](#) (Bryan) Oil and gas: low-production wells: sensitive receptors - Imposes penalties of \$10,000 a day for each oil or gas well that continues to be operated despite being “low producing” for over a period of two years.

Assemblyman Bryan tells us:

“Those oil wells, the Inglewood oil field, many of them are doing less than 15 barrels a day. Now, less than 15 barrels is insignificant and the industry refers to it as a “stripper well” which I think is an appropriate name because it is stripping us of our life expectancy, it is stripping us of our right to breath, it is stripping our communities of green space and land that can be transformed into other things. But, when I heard this and I saw 3 reports confirming this and I also read that the environmental impact - whether you get a thousand barrels or 3 barrels—is the same to the community... You mean to tell me you’re killing me and you’re not lowering my gas prices? You’re not getting any tangible extraction that you can make a false argument that it is improving the con-

ditions of our lives. You’re just letting them drill ‘cause you don’t want to pay to clean ‘em up? So we’re going to change the cost calculation. If you’re drilling within 3200 feet of where we eat, sleep and play...if you’re operating a well that’s doing less than 15 barrels a day for two years or more, I’m going to fine you \$10,000 for every single day you keep drilling and I’m going to use that money to invest in communities.”

[Article / Fact Sheet](#)

[SCA-1](#) (Newman) Elections: recall of state officers—reforms the recall election process so that if a recall of state or legislative official qualifies for the ballot, voters would be asked only to decide the fitness of the elected official in question. The bill would eliminate the second question, in which voters choose from among replacement candidates. If a recall succeeds, the process for replacement “would follow the same steps as currently provided in other scenarios in which a

state or legislative office is vacated.”

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, who is a principal coauthor, writes:

“Our statewide recall process has become a costly partisan tool used to subvert the will of the people. We can do better, and with SCA 1, we will do better.”

[Press Release](#)

[AB1657](#) (Wicks) The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024 - authorizes a 10 billion dollar bond to fund the state’s affordable housing programs, including affordable rental housing for lower income families, homeownership opportunities, and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. We are in a housing and homelessness crisis. Current programs are running out of funds. This bill would provide the funds needed to prevent the affordable housing pipeline from shutting down. [Press release](#)

These bills join the bills the Club previously endorsed in [March](#) and [February](#).

Hey progressive friend!

Wednesday, June 5, will be the first Wednesday of the month, which means it’s time for another

Working >Worrying Wednesday.

That’s when we come together, stop our doomscrolling, and get busy writing postcards and letters to swing state voters. It’s this kind of direct voter outreach that will keep TFG and the Republicans from ending American democracy in November which, y’know, would be bad. So join me on Wednesday 6/5 (5-7pm) and let’s get to work!

To sweeten the deal, I’ll be serving Tito’s Tacos and cupcakes from Suzy Cakes. There’ll be beverages too.

It’ll be fun.

If you can make it, please let me know so I’ll be sure to have enough tacos and cupcakes on hand. Address provided upon [RSVP](#).

And please feel free to pass this email (patsweetpat@gmail.com) along to anyone you think might be interested!

Your pal, Patrick Meighan

The fight against oil drilling near homes and schools

by Leah Pressman

“My fight was to work in coalition and do the impossible” said Meghan Sahli-Wells as oil pump jacks bobbed relentlessly in the hills behind her.

The former Mayor, now National Sierra Club Board Secretary, addressed a group of Sierra Club members and environmental activists in Kenneth Hahn



Park, “We finally got to a point where we were able to stop all new drilling in this 100-year-old field and to phase out all drilling over the next five to seven years. We were able to do that in Culver City with the incredible partnership, power and organizing from Sierra Club leaders.”

The group had gathered to celebrate the successful decade-long fight to shut down the oil wells in Culver City's portion of the Inglewood Oil Field.

Monica Embry, former Associate Director with the Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign, spoke about her time working on the campaign, “I remember lobbying you as Mayor, Meghan, partnering with you is really what that felt like. And that was amazing to have a co-governance model where an organization rooted in vision and values gets to work with the leaders to pass the policies our communities and climate need! And when we won in Culver City, we said, ‘eyes to the county!’”

Indeed, after Culver City made the first move, the City and County of Los Angeles followed with their own plans to end oil drilling in the parts of the Inglewood Oil Field outside of Culver City.

David Haake, Angeles Chapter Clean Break Team Chair and Sierra Club West LA Group Chair, recalled how Sierra Club members' complaints about toxic fumes, spills and the release of toxic materials moved him to work with Clean Break, a committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club that advocates for an end to oil and gas drilling, fracking, and all other forms of well stimulation,

production, and distribution in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. David Haake was just one of the many Sierra Club members in attendance currently involved in Sierra club [canvassing efforts](#) in Long Beach and Signal Hill where activists are organizing to stop a 20-year permit extension for oil drilling.

Other speakers pointed to the extensive network of electrical wires running through the field reminding the group that oil extraction consumes a lot of energy, sometimes more than it extracts. Believe it or not, Culver City's pump jacks run on 100% renewable energy provided by the Clean Power Alliance.

After drilling is phased out, residents will have to decide the future of the oil field. One speaker argued that as much as Culver City might want and need housing, the fields are so polluted that clean-up would be too long, complicated and expensive to make it worthwhile. Given the expense of clean up and the extensive existing electrical infrastructure, he suggested that the city would be better off using the former oil fields to locate battery storage.

Michelle Persoff, Senior Field Representative from the office of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan talked about the fight to regulate oil drilling at the state level. Assemblymember Bryan represents Culver City which is part of Assembly District 55, a district which includes the entire Inglewood Oil Field. Bryan has had the Culver City Democratic Club endorsement each time he's run for office.

In 2022, Assemblymember Bryan fought hard to get [SB 1137](#) over the finish line in the Assembly and on to Governor Newsom's desk for signature after it passed the State Senate. SB 1137 is a law requiring that new oil and gas wells be set back at least 3200 feet from “sensitive receptors” such as schools, homes and hospitals. Persoff explained that as soon as SB 1137 was signed, the oil companies were able to pause the law and continue to drill by spending millions on paid signature-gathers who lied to get enough signatures to put a measure that would repeal the law on the November ballot. Last summer, the Culver City Democratic Club voted to support the fight to “keep the law” against the ballot measure that would repeal it.



In his new role as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Assemblymember Bryan is in a key position to support environmental legislation. Bryan begins his tenure as chair with high marks on his environmental voting record from California Environmental Voters in [2021](#), [2022](#), and [2023](#) and from the Sierra Club in [2021](#), [2022](#), and [2023](#).

Persoff alerted the group to two important environmental bills that Assemblymember Bryan has authored for the 2024 legislative cycle, two bills that have already earned Culver City Democratic Club endorsement; [ACA 16](#) is a proposed constitutional amendment which would enshrine the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment into the California State Constitution and [AB 2716](#) to fine low-producing wells that continue to operate for more than two years.

After participants had enjoyed a short hike from the Stone View Nature Center to Kenneth Hahn park, they were treated to lunch in a garden where Executive Director of the Sierra Club Foundation Dan Chu and Sierra Club Board President Allison Chin spoke to the group about the movement, the people and the philanthropy promoting a greener, cleaner future for the planet and its people.

Club members present included; Club President Jeff Schwartz, Leah Pressman, Meghan Sahli-Wells, Colby Devitt, David Haake, Disa Lindgren & Dylan Gottlieb as well as Culver City Council Candidates Bubba Fish and Nancy Barba.

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

Our Fund This! Town Hall was a huge success

by *Our Culver*

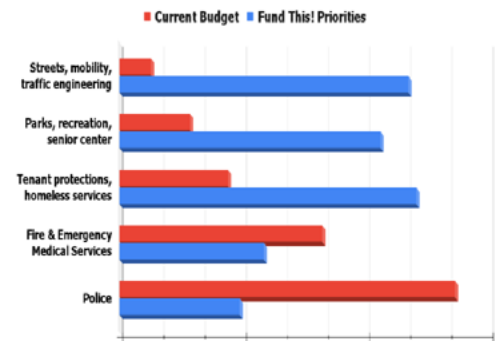
Close to a hundred Culver City neighbors came together to learn how Culver City spends its \$175 million General Fund and advocate for how they would like the city to spend its resources on transportation, housing, public safety, parks, senior services, and summer camps for kids. It was great to see so many of you there!

A highlight of the event was our Community Priorities Activity. We looked at how Culver City spends its money and



then asked event participants to share their actual priorities. It was fascinating to see the differences (even in an informal, unscientific group exercise).

Fund This! Priorities



George Gascon
for
Los Angeles District Attorney

For more info:
<https://georgegascon.org>

Don't Forget to Renew Your Club Membership for 2024!

To Join the Culver City Democratic Club [CLICK HERE](#) for the Club's ActBlue page.

Join the Culver City Democratic Club for next year and the rest of 2023 for a \$30 donation! For more information call Diane Rosenberg at **(310) 398-5328.**

FOR LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

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THE DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT

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

Now is your chance to get involved with the City of Culver City and make your voice heard. The City Clerk's Office is currently accepting applications to fill upcoming vacancies for Culver City Commissions, Boards, and Committees (CBC).

Openings are available on the following bodies:

(* Denotes the 23 positions with incumbents, ^ denotes specific Youth position)

- Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness (4 Positions – Seat 1*, Seat 2*, Seat 4*, and Seat 6*)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (4 Positions – 1 Youth/Student Member^, 1 Resident Senior Member, 1 Resident Member, and 1 Business Community Member)
- Civil Service Commission (1 Position – Seat 3*)
- Cultural Affairs Commission (1 Position – Seat 3)
- Disability Advisory Committee (5 Positions – Seat 2*, Seat 4*, Seat 5, Seat 6*, and Seat 7*)
- Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (5 Positions – Seat 2*, Seat 4*, Seat 6*, Youth Rep Seat 1^, and Labor Representative Seat 1*)
- Finance Advisory Committee (4 Positions – Resident Member Seat 1*, Resident Member Seat 2*, Business Member Seat 4*, Business Member Seat 5*)
- Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board (3 Positions – Tenant Seat 1, Landlord Seat 1*, and Member-at-Large Seat 1*)
- LAX Area Advisory Committee (3 Positions*)
- Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission (1 Position – Seat 1)
- Planning Commission (1 Position – Seat 4*)
- New Committee! MLK Jr. and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee (9 Positions)

Applications will be accepted by the City Clerk's Office through Monday, May 20, 2024 at 5PM. Applicants can complete and submit applications online at the Culver City's Serve webpage. Applications will be accepted online, by mail, or electronically via email to city.clerk@culvercity.org.

IMPORTANT DATES IF YOU APPLY:

June 3 - Meet & Greet and CBC Interviews

June 10 - Appointments for these openings are to be considered at the Regular City Council Meeting

June 27 - Appointed Members must attend an Ethics/Brown Act (AB1234) Training

City Hall business hours are Monday through Fridays, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm (closed alternate Fridays).

Questions? Contact us: <https://www.culvercity.org/Contact-Us>