

City Council Regular Meeting

February 22, 2024

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Public Comment Packet

ITEM(S)

Unscheduled Communication-Public Comment

Contents of Supplement: Public Comment received

Item(s)

RECEIVED
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CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Lynn Owens submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: a) The above link will allow you to register in advance for remote participation in the meeting via the Zoom platform. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing additional details about joining the meeting. b) To speak during a City Council meeting while attending remotely: while in the Zoom application, click on the icon labeled "Participants" at the bottom of the screen. Then select "RaiseHand" at the bottom of the Participants window. Your digital hand will now be raised. You will be asked to "unmute" when your name is called to speak. You will not be visible via video and there will be no opportunity to share your screen.

eComment: I support the Zoom participation. I do not support the limited access. Zoom does not require pre-registration. You should not have to pre-register unless you want to. That requires giving you personal information. You CAN join the Meeting via Zoom by putting the Meeting ID # on the screen or in the Agenda. Telephonic participation is also available. No NEED to Download another App.

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
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Item: 2) E-mail - Agenda related documents and comments can be e-mailed to the Office of the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the agenda item being heard, pursuant to Rule 11(c).

eComment: Why do these comments need to be submitted so far in advance? Are the Emails NO LONGER a part of the PUBLIC RECORD?

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Meeting: City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

eComment: I believe CITY COUNCIL SHOULD remain standing after the Pledge of ALLEGIANCE and RESTATE THIER OATH OF OFFICE💎€💎💎 To remind them WHY they are their and WHO they Serve. .

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:04 PM
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Item: COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

eComment: These reports have no structure. No measurable data is presented. The Public & Council would benefit from knowing the number of Arrests, Homeless Sweeps, Evictions, Foreclosures, Burglaries, Assaults, Jobs, Bankruptcy, etc .. Maybe once per month, at least.

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:18 PM
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Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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[City of Fresno](#)

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Item: 5.-B. ID 24-250 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(1) Case Name: David Gibeault v. City of
Fresno, PSI, Administered by Tristar Risk Management, Claim Number 1010104308-ADR-1.

eComment: Isn't David Gibeault a Fresno Police officer?

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: [BULK] New eComment for City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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Meeting: City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-HH. ID 24-130 RESOLUTION - Repealing and Replacing Resolutions 2004-6, 2004-185 and 2020-43, Establishing the Procedure for the Creation of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Similar Bodies of the City of Fresno, and Establishing the Appointment Process

eComment: Please provide links to FMC being replaced for the convenience of City Council & Concerned Busy Citizens. If these Agendas were just a tad more user friendly & descriptive , it may be easier all around. Are the 3 ordinances/codes being condensed? Updated? Weakened? Clarified? What is being added & what removed? I believe the catalyst was the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee. Fresno seems to stand alone in insisting that is Okay. I know residents disagree. How exactly is this going through Prevent these SCANDALOUS issues? What if City Council doesn't listen to the Committee? Are they ALLOWED to talk about it? To TELL the Public Is this written with MAXIMUM TRANSPARENCY required

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Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-179 Approve the award of a cooperative purchase agreement to Lehr Auto of Sacramento, California for the purchase of 32 Panasonic CF-33 Toughbook laptops in an amount not to exceed \$242,300 to replace aging, out of date computers in Police vehicles.

eComment: Are comparable bids available for the Public to view?

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:01 PM
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Categories: Red Category

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Meeting: City Council on 2024-02-22 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 5.-E. ID 24-266 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(2): 1 potential case

eComment: Anticipated Litigation - What is the Public allowed to know here? Who is involved., employee, resident, a company, vendor, government agency? Is the City considering initiating litigation or has the City been issued with a letter of intent to sue or cease & Desist letter? Can I get a Copy via FOIA of that letter?

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From: Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public comment for 3-C

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public comment for 3-C

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

We have come to Fresno city council meeting to ask for the warming centers to be open throughout the cold winter months multiple times with no response from the mayor or council. The warming centers were closed during bitterly cold weather, save three days; closed during every storm this year. No response in the form of action from the city council and mayor.

The day before the centers DID open, a woman told me she had been shivering non-stop for a week. I told you this.

We told you the needs to make warming centers more accessible to people, like reasons why people aren't able to use the buses and the need for the centers to be open continually to help overcome some of the challenges. The days it was open, only a small fraction of the community knew about it, because even when community members like me spend their weekend telling people, it is impossible to reach people and the city's "outreach" are social media posts. Even then, many people aren't able to get to the centers. No response.

We need to also look at other deterrents to accessibility like the need for storage spaces like San Diego has and recognize that those who are unhoused don't have the same ease of accessibility as those with housing, security of possessions like phones, and reliable transportation.

We also told you that the HART team is actively endangering those without housing by throwing away their tents, sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, and other survival gear and threatening to arrest or actually arresting those who try to save their belongings. No response.

We told you that residents of shelters, including the elderly, medically fragile, and disabled are being exited for unjust reasons and the need for accountability and oversight. No response.

We have proposed small, managed safe camps, which would have kitchens, because people use fires to cook food, because people need to eat, and for them to protect their warm items and have a means of leaving for jobs and services until they can get shelters/housing.

You refused.

We need more shelters and housing. We need the tiny homes. It is a process, but it is unrealistic to ignore the basic survival needs of the thousands not in shelter, including the growing numbers who are losing housing due to increasing rent and other crises..

These issues should make us aware of the deficit in meeting that need.

This resolution misinforms what the problems and available resources are and rather than recognizing the city needs to reconsider its unhoused response to meet people's need to survive the dangerous health impacts of the cold and essentially dismisses the reality of what they are facing and literally blames them for not accessing an option that isn't even there most of the times they need it. We do need an alternative and we need to focus on that than continuing to scapegoat those in difficult and vulnerable life situation

From: Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:36 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Graffiti in Fresno

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Dude David <dude.david1326@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Graffiti in Fresno

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Just a quick suggestion . Graffiti happens at all hours we have a very large population of night people who have eyes everywhere . If would be much cheaper to offer a reward for them maybe thru Crime Stoppers to call when it is happening so our new task force could catch them in the act . Seems like a easy to implement solution to a growing problem. Thank you

From: Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public comment addendum for 3-C

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
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To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
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Dear council,

I was to elaborate on my previous comment, as we need to focus on solutions. First, for the actions we have been asking of you regarding ways to help people survive, please consider what it would take to put them into action.

-The centers need to be open consistently throughout the winters

- 1.
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3. Under 35 isn't the only time it is cold and the weather is a hazard to the well being
4. of our community members.
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8. because it takes so much work to reach people to let them know it is open. When people
9. know it's open the next day, they can return and also let other people know. Only opening it based on weather is counterproductive and ignores the challenges those who are unhoused have in getting information they need. A small fraction of the unhoused community
10. were reached the three days it was open (One advocate spent the two prior days going out all day but was only able to get to part of the city). We also need a better system of getting the information to our community. The city's only notification is posts

11. on Facebook and Twitter, thus for the city to claim that people should be in the warming centers when most people don't know about them is disingenuous.

12.

However, having warming centers open isn't an instant "Open it and they will come, if they really want to" situation in other ways than knowing about it. There are also other factors that impede people from accessing the centers that need to be addressed: Buses are free, but only run to certain times of night (and the one going to Ted C Wills stops before the center opens during the weekend), don't take non-support pets, and limit how many belongings one can take, so if people have more belongings than they can transport, they risk losing their belongings if they leave it behind. Because of the limited locations, many people cannot access the centers by walking. We need other modes of transport.

For some people, it's not feasible to do the warming centers, because they may need a place to store belongings, but then also need the belongings during the day. (in other words, please consider that people's situations are more complex and need to be taken realistically to avoid unrealistic expectation by the city)

-We need the city council to address the human rights violations and harmful behavior of the The HART team, who constantly takes the tents, blankets, clothing, sleeping bags and other items of the unhoused community needed to keep warm, so the city is actively impeding people from trying to stay warm and survive by any other means. I don't need to elaborate as you have heard so much testimony about this.

-We not only need more shelter space, but oversight of shelters to ensure that people aren't being unfairly exited from the shelters and that they are getting the wrap-around services they need. Many people have reported being exited because they timed out, but said they didn't get the help to find housing that was promised to them. Others reported being kicked out for other unjust reasons, such as health issues that the ex-occupants said the shelter told them they didn't have the capacity to help (but they didn't work on getting them into another facility), small issues such as conflicts that should have been more professionally addressed, and other reasons that could have been addressed without exiting the individual, which have included many people who were elderly and/or had health issues.

-Consider other issues that our unhoused have and solutions like storage units for belongings like in San Diego that would allow people to keep belongings and still access services like warming centers, shelters, employment, etc without risk of losing these things.

-We need Safe Lots for people with trailers and cars and well managed safe camps for temporary dwelling until people can get into shelter and permanent housing. This would allow for places to have communal kitchens. People also use these fires to cook food, as well as stay warm. People cannot afford and shouldn't rely on fast food. Some people access the Poverello House for meals, but for many, going to the Poverello House isn't feasible, as they have no way to get their with their belongings and cannot leave their belongings due to HART and other theft, cannot afford the bus fare, the nearest bus stops several

blocks away from the Poverello House, which is an impediment for those with belongings and those disabled, people might have jobs or other responsibilities where they are, many people simply feel unsafe in that area, and other reasons.

As well, people at safe camps don't have to risk their warm belongings being taken. They also have a stable place to go to work or find work and access services. Their caseworkers can reach them thus making it more feasible for them to escape homelessness.

-The city needs a lived experience board, so you can hear from those experiencing homelessness other possible solutions but also to give feedback on the strength and weaknesses of possible plans and projects.

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From: Clerk
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Fresno City Council Item 3C

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Josefa Vega <JVega@aclunc.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Nelson Esparza <Nelson.Esparza@fresno.gov>; Miguel Arias <Miguel.Arias@fresno.gov>; Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Fresno City Council Item 3C

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As a resident of District 7, I would like to speak out against item 3C that targets Fresno's unhoused population warming themselves or preparing food. The warming centers have only been open 3 times this entire winter, when resources are unavailable and community members are deprived, the unhoused population will set fires to meet their basic human needs. I ask that as councilmembers you pursue solutions like winter long warming centers, shelters with beds available, safe lots and safe camps. For councilmember Arias to introduce this under the guise of concern for air quality is a complete farce and political theatre. Consider the extreme harm that industrial has caused in southwest Fresno. I ask that as our representatives you not place the responsibility for clean air on individuals simply trying to survive when meat processing plants, warehouses and dairies are truly making Fresnans ill.



Josefa Vega
Pronouns: She/Her/Ella
Organizing and Program Associate
American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California
39 Drumm Street, San Francisco, CA 94111
O: 559.214.0152 | C: 559.500.5222
aclunc.org  

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