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Agenda Date: 10/22/2020
Council Meeting

2020 OCT 23 P 2:30

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

ITEM(S)

File ID 20-001492 – (Unscheduled Communication)

Community Emails Received.

1. Vote No on Measure 16
2. Requesting help from Fresno City & County Officials

Contents of Supplement: Community Emails Received

Item(s)

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.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Terry Fung <tfung771@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Please Vote NO on Measure 16

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council member,

The supporters of State Measure 16 say that you must support it or you are again a racist. However, if you look deeper at State Measure 16 you will realize that those that support it Are really Encouraging racism. A person's life story is special. Just because someone is white does not mean they should receive a minus about their life story. Every person should be judged about the character of their life and not their skin color. However what State Measure 16 does is to judge people by skin color. It enhances a person's skin color while degrading another person's skin color. Why is that OK? Why is that not racism? Therefore, we ask for The elected officials of this body to take a position against State Measure 16. All residents that support Martin Luther King Junior should be against State Measure 16. Please read out my comments in the city council meeting.

Terry Hung

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Mary Wienholz-Haskin <mary.haskin@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 11:32 PM
To: Clerk; Nelson Esparza; Tyler Maxwell; Paul Caprioglio; Mayor; District1; District2; District3; Luis Chavez; District6; District5; District4; Miguel Arias; Esmeralda Soria; Garry Bredefeld; Mike Karbassi
Cc: SDeLaRosa@fresnocountyca.gov; District5@fresnocountyca.gov; District3@fresnocountyca.gov; District4@fresnocountyca.gov; district2@fresnocountyca.gov; District1@fresnocountyca.gov
Subject: Requesting help from Fresno City & County Officials

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City & County Officials,

I am 52 years old and was born and raised here in Fresno. In my lifetime, I have lived in City Districts 2,4 and 7. I have recently taken ownership of my family home as my father is deceased and my mom is now on Home Hospice. I reside in District 7. My parents purchased this home 42 years ago. Notable neighbors were Karen Humphry, Al Radka, Hal McKinney and Cowboy Jack Hannah. I recall seeing Mr. Radka and his wife walk past my house everyday. Jack Hannah's youngest daughter and I were best friends on the block. I was in Gemco at least once a week when our mom took us grocery shopping and often found my way as a lost child sitting at the front counter because I wandered off from my mom. My brother and I along with neighbor kids would often go to Manchester Park and do activities with the Parks and Rec leader, watch our friends play little league baseball and splash in the wading pool in the summer.

I was aware a police officer lived in our block as he would have his patrol car at his house sometimes. A playmate from down the street and I fiercely rode our bikes to the officer's house after a predator exposed himself to us while we were riding bikes in the parking lot of what used to be Orchard Hardware Supply and Ethan Allen. He swiftly called PD and took us home safely. Despite that solo negative experience, we loved our neighborhood and we felt safe to roam our block on bikes.

I reoccupied my childhood home in 2009. I noticed the decline just outside our safe haven along the edges of the block and nearby main cross street intersections. I was sad to see empty office buildings that used to house my orthodontist and many dentists. The building that Pizza and Pipes used to occupy was empty. There was trash along the Shields frontage road. The main noticeable difference...no kids playing...not even in the front of their own house and not one on a bike. I wondered if there were even kids on my street or in the block. It wasn't the same place I remember.

Since 2018, with the help of a few dedicated neighbors, we were able to mobilize the entire city block inside Dakota to Shields and First to Fresno into a Neighborhood Watch group. We have worked closely with Det. Bunch in the Central Policing District. We have spent the last 2 years trying to catch and evict #6 Heat Team Most Wanted suspect and his entourage. Finally, the eviction went through with the help of Det. Bunch, Code Enforcement, Councilman Esparza, Councilman-Elect Maxwell and other law enforcement agencies involved in surveillance. We try to work together with the police to make and keep our neighborhood a safer place. We work with them not against them.

A few neighbors and I patrol the neighborhood. The majority of that falls on me because I can't make people do something that I am not willing to do myself. We also have discussed that when we come home or have time, to just take an extra look around. I do the majority of night patrols because my children are young adults and I have room for it in my life to look out for my neighbors. We all do it because we care about each other, even the neighbors we don't know. We are looking out for the elderly that still live here. We had a neighbor on my street die alone and he was discovered a week later. We don't want another senior in our keep to die alone again. There are still a few that are originals and in their 90's. Many homes are occupied like mine, children of original or 2nd time owners. The other dedicated neighbors and I talk regularly and try and stay abreast of potential issues and we are learning to find solutions on our own or to contact the appropriate agency or our Councilman Esparza for help.

One area my neighbors and I feel unsupported is with the homeless that have overrun our area and infiltrated Manchester Park. It devastates me that the children in our neighborhood don't get to use the park like I did. They won't have the fond memories that I have growing up. Several neighbors that line the park have had homeless jump their fence and use the pool for a bath, jump in their back yards and try and get into their homes, go through the neighborhood and use water hoses in the front yards to bathe, and look for vacant homes to try and break in or sleep in the backyards. One woman slept on the playground equipment for weeks. It broke my heart as I recently drove by and watched a local mom with her toddler on the play equipment. She was trying to keep him confined to a very small section of the structure because the homeless woman took it over with all of her stuff. It is not fair that our neighborhood children can't use the park or equipment because the homeless are claiming it. I am worried there are needles or condoms in the ground cover in the play structure area. One Saturday morning as I was driving by, I saw a group of ladies meet at the park to exercise on the basketball court. I was happy to see they want to utilize the park but I was embarrassed that they entered the park through cut chain link that someone else did to get into the park. Keeping our parks locked is not going to keep the homeless out. A locked park keeps out the kids and responsible users. Woodward park is not gated. People are free to enter by car or on foot to use the park space. I have recently conveyed to our Councilman our desire to revitalize the park. We are hoping you will help.

In addition to my fulltime job, I am an advisor for a Service Club at Fresno State and we are doing an alley cleanup this weekend painting graffiti, weeding, picking up trash in the alley that lines the park and winds around to the back of homes on Mariposa street. We are recruiting volunteers from Fresno State, East Fresno Kiwanis and the neighborhood. We are hoping this effort is a first step to working towards a larger park revitalization project. We are willing to do what it takes to help our neighborhood, but some things cannot be done without your collective help.

Recently, the Hotel Fresno/Smuggler's Inn project was a hot button because we are concerned that the Blackstone corridor will now be the dumping ground for homeless housing or resources. I am sure you are all well aware of what hotels are being used for transitional housing or safe houses. The Rescue Mission purchased property and neighbors are concerned that it will be used for housing and what we see in it's current location, in District 3, will move to their Dakota campus. We realize that homelessness is an issue. We also want future housing projects to be placed in north Fresno not just here. Many neighbors in my block and surrounding blocks are moving because nothing is being done to help with the decline of very decent neighborhoods. We feel helpless that our city and county officials are collectively not facing this problem head on and providing real solutions. We are hoping that RH Builder's makes good on their promise to be a good and better neighbor, to help us lift up our neighborhood and improve the decline caused by too much development on the fringes of the city that lures good and valuable neighbors to move out. Businesses leave and buildings sit vacant. There

is evidence all over downtown, East Fresno, West Fresno, Central Fresno. The model to build new and continue with urban sprawl is not helping Fresno, it is hurting and you have plenty of evidence all over town. We need your help for dying areas caused by newer developments. How far are you going to stretch Fresno and leave the rest in a wake?

If you have read this far, I appreciate your time in hearing my concerns and concerns of many of my neighbors. We would like to request and ask for assistance with the homeless in Manchester Park to remove them and triage them for immediate housing or relocation. All parks deserve to have children back on their soil without the limitations caused by homeless infiltration. We can't revitalize our park or any Fresno park for that matter without real meaningful help from you collectively. My block used to be a great location. Can you help me and my neighbors keep this area this way?

tl;dr Please help us save our parks and neighborhoods.

Kindest Regards,
Mary Haskin
D7 resident