

Observer Report for League of Women Voters of Beach Cities

Name of Agency or body observed: Redondo Beach City Council		Date of Meeting: August 2, 2022		
Meeting type (regular, board, special, etc) Regular or subject: E.g. Regular City Council Meeting		Approximate size of audience: Zoom - Can't tell		
Name of the Observer: LWV Observer		Date report Submitted: August 3, 2022		
	FEATURE EVALUATED	YES	NO	N/A
1	Did the meeting start on time?	yes		
2	Were all members present?		no	
3	Were all members courteous to each other and to the public?		ZO*	
4	Was the Brown Act followed?	yes		
5	Was the agenda available in advance?	yes		
6	Did the agenda clearly describe what was to be discussed?	yes		
7	Was there adequate opportunity for public input?	yes		
8	Was there the appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than in open session?		no	
9	Was background information available to the public?	yes		
10	Additional comments on conduct of meeting?			

COMMENTS on above (Please indicate feature number to which each comment applies):

6:02 Mayor Bill Brand & CM Lowenstein absent. CM Obagi left in the middle of the meeting. CM Nehrenheim, as Mayor Pro Tem, presided.

3&10L CM Obagi made a statement about how civility was lacking and complained about having to drive up from SD (where he had a trial) to come up and vote on his own recall (A vote to move his recall election from the November general election to a special election 3 weeks before the general election.)

Observer note: He had previously recused himself from voting on issues connected with his own recall, but then voted on it anyway. See notes from July 20, 2022 RBCC meeting.

See Agenda, Agenda Packet and Video

<https://redondo.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=956351&GUID=E42B4344-EC60-40FC-86F5-4929556F0B49&Options=&Search=>

1. Were any issues on the agenda relevant to any LWV local or state program positions? Please be specific.

H4.3 Automated signature matching is a voter issue. But the automation is backed up with human checks and normal procedure to cure ballots. We can watch to see how effective the software is, but no action is required at this time.

2. Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues?

If yes, what action do you recommend?

3. Other observations?

Notes on meeting.

Consent calendar items, some got pulled and voted on separately. All passed except Cannabis.

H4.1 MOU w/ RBUSD for use of ES campuses for city's after-school programs, not to exceed \$30,000. Approved

H4.3 Automated signature matching for ballots, at a cost of \$10,000/election. We will pay \$10,000 more because of the special election. Whittier and Lancaster use it.

Currently, they match signatures by hand. This automated system approves matching signatures and shows non-matching ones on screen to 2 staff members for manual checking. Ballots where people forgot to sign or signatures didn't match will get letters sent notifying voters to come in and cure their ballot. No one will have their ballot rejected due to automation failure. This is just a labor-saving thing.

Approved 4-0 with some grumbling about extra \$10,000 cost due to a special election just days before the general election.

Public Comments:

H8: A woman complained about not approving a crossing guard at Ralston and Inglewood to save \$19,000. Notes that we are spending \$270,000 + \$10,000 on a special election that we didn't need to, but we can't spend \$19,000 on a crossing guard.

Observer research on H8:

Pedestrians hit by motorists where they decided not to pay for a crossing guard:

<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/details/main.php?no=9049691> 17 year old 02/21/2020 06:20

<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/details/main.php?no=8761067> 7 year old 12/24/2018 15:47

Joan Irvine, D1, about Cannabis (wants licensing sooner), against special recall election

Eugene Soloman urged them to pass the staff-developed cannabis ordinance so it supersedes the industry-backed Cannabis initiative, which was moved up from March 2023 to Oct 2022. This means that it would supersede city ordinance, unless the city ordinance is passed before the Oct 19 special election.

H11: 2nd reading of city ordinance to regulate cannabis businesses

Backstory: This is the 2nd reading of the city's staff-drafted cannabis licensing ordinance that staff had been working on for years. After the second reading and approval, it becomes law in 30 days. businesses can apply for a license and open ~Jan 2023.

If the initiative passes, then any change to cannabis licensing would require another election. If the city passes their ordinance, and the industry group withdraws their initiative, then the city council can vote on changes and easily make adjustments as needed.

LWV is in general opposed to ballot box zoning and budgeting due to inflexibility of laws passed by initiative.

The cannabis initiative vote was originally scheduled for March 2023, in an agreement with all parties. If industry was happy with the way the city ordinance was working, then they agreed to pull their initiative.

But, in order to move the Obagi recall off the general election ballot in Nov 2022, it has to be held with something else. So the cannabis initiative was pulled off the March 2023 ballot and the recall election was pulled off the Nov 2022 ballot to create a special election on Oct 19, 2022. This extra election is expected to cost about \$250,000 (extra printing, mailing, verification, staff costs) more than the original plan to put everything on regularly-scheduled elections in Nov 2022 and March 2023. **End Backstory**

Mayor Pro Tem NN moved to put the staff-developed cannabis initiative on the March 2023 ballot so that it would supersede the industry-backed initiative (if it passes).

Obagi recused because, in his law practice, he represents cannabis businesses.

Emdee and Horvath voted against putting the staff-developed cannabis initiative on the March ballot. Motion fails 1-2.

On the motion to adopt by title only, ordinance no. 3233-22 regulating cannabis businesses, Emdee voted no. She wanted to see how the vote on Oct 19 went before proceeding. Motion fails 2-1 (need 3 yes votes to pass an ordinance).

There will be another discussion about cannabis licensing at the August 16 RBCC meeting.

H14: printing costs for the special election

Horvath no, Emdee says it's an illegal election but will vote Y for admin purposes of printing ballots. Motion passes 3-1

Public Comment

Joan Irvine, Pat Healy, Arnette Travis all spoke against special election.

Pat Healy, Arnette Travis both talked about how unfair it is to skip over Laura Emdee in Mayor Pro Tem.

Holly Osborne says apt residents can turn their garages into ADUs

(**Observer: they can't, only owners can**). Then says it's turning a 6 on a lot into a 9 on a lot, newly sold, probably out of state owner...

Eugene Solomon. AES, told the CA Water Board, that the land sale was contingent on certain conditions. 25 acre set aside for open space, sale of 15 ac to city at guaranteed price...

Ally Steward (sp) from BCHD gave a report about upcoming events.

Polly Kissinger: pointed out passing over Emdee as mayor pro tem, asserts collusion of M BB, CM NN, CM TL, CM ZO, illegal special election. Says ZO has nerve calling for civility when he's colluding against Emdee and his constituents

Cindy Nafissi commends Horvath for calling the special election stupid. (She lost to him for D3 CC seat)

Alexandra (?) saw video of RBPB brutality against a non-white dog owner. Noticed that white dog owners on the same bridge have never been harassed or detained by RBPB. The police officers should not be employed as PO.

Also says that CM NN, TL and ZO have taken campaign contributions from cannabis co; should have recused themselves from voting on cannabis. Notes they should not have moved up the cannabis initiative to a special election when it was already scheduled for March 2023.

Notes also that CM TL should have recused himself on voting about outsourcing RBPB to the county (he works for county FD as a lifeguard.)

L1

Because commercial development of smaller scale is administrative design review instead of planning commission, then neighbors were not sent notices and lack ability to appeal. More people will be sent notices. (300' radius instead of 100' radius.)

Explicitly states that only the owner and the applicant can appeal determination.

Passes

L2

Military equipment used by the RBPB, in response to CA law passed Dec 2021. They needed to inventory and report what they have and use. Tear gas, bean bags, tasers, armored vehicles, drones, sniper rifles. Range on some of these weapons is 1-2 miles and can go through concrete walls.

Public Comment

Julian Peters: RBPB used drones to help locate an autistic neighbor boy and he was able to talk to the boy and drive him home. He thanked RBPB for their culture, willingness to serve. Now he serves on neighborhood watch.

Christina Miller, D3, asked about drones. Says they fly over her house a lot. RBPB just told her that she was on a common flight path. When she camped in the backyard w/ daughter, the drone flew over them, came back and then hovered. She wonders about privacy.

Candace Nafissi, D3, also on flight path. Attended Zoom w/ RBPB to understand about drone flight path.

Carissa ?, D3. She had a positive experience with detective de Santos. She had a concealed gun permit in CO. She thinks that 50 caliber weapons are really crazy in urban settings here. Chief Hoffman says that they may need to go through barricades and vehicles (car or boat). says would only be used in extreme, once in a lifetime situations.

Unanimously accepted staff recommendations.

N1:

Artesia Blvd intersection safety modifications. Public Works director Ted Semaan zoomed in from home bc he has Covid. City traffic engineer Andrew Winje attended in person.

Can't afford \$800,000 cost of realigning/offsetting left turn lanes to improve visibility. Originally budgeted \$200,000. For \$200,000, can change signals.

Emdee wanted bike push buttons on every Artesia light (currently just a few). Emdee asked about pedestrian scrambles at Rindge and MacKay because they are heavily used by peds/cyclists.

Semaan says that they did not consider that because they did not do a pedestrian census. (You do not need a census to make safety improvements.) Emdee directed him to study ped/bike counts and costs to install scrambles.

Artesia allows both protected and permissive left turns. The permissive left turns (green light or flashing yellow) are when most collisions occur.

Obagi concurs w/ Emdee to ask for bike buttons.

Obagi says that he doesn't see enough pedestrians on Artesia to warrant any pedestrian infrastructure (in light of storefront vacancies).

Horvath says he talked to Semaan about Rindge N-S turn split phase movement. Is the hardware amenable to future pedestrian scrambles?

Semaan: We are using 170s. If we upgrade to 2070s (the controllers/computers), then we can do all the vehicular movements and pedestrian improvements including scrambles. Measure M-eligible so it would be more expensive, but may be able to get county funds to do it.

Julian Peters agrees with Emdee that U-turns are needed for access to businesses. Also agrees with Horvath that people are going too fast. RBPD should enforce speed limits.

N1 passes 4-0 staff recommendation to do this in 2 phases. Upgrade light signals first but don't move medians until we resurface and make other AACAP plan changes. Artesia-Aviation Corridor Area Plan was previously approved.

LWV Observer looked up statistics

2012: Pedestrian killed by left-turning driver at MacKay

<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/details/main.php?no=5638115>

2017: Cyclist killed by driver at Felton at night. (light signals don't detect/turn green for cyclists)

<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/details/main.php?no=8404593>

2021: Pedestrian killed by left-turning driver at Felton

<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/details/main.php?no=9243410>

Meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.

Submit this report to the Observer Corps Coordinator, as soon as possible after your observation. Please attach any agenda or other meeting documents.

Thank you for being the eyes and ears of the League!