A REGULAR MEETING
SIGNAL HILL CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2003
6:00 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill City Council was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on July 8, 2003.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Noll called the meeting to order for the City Council at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

COUNCIL RECESSES TO EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AT 6:05 P.M.

The City Manager indicated the following items were to be discussed under Executive (Closed) Session.

(1) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b), pertaining to existing litigation regarding Cities of Arcadia, et al v. United States Environmental Protection Agency et al., Case No. C-02-5244-SBA.

(2) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation regarding the Monte Carlo Nightclub.

(3) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), to confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation pertaining to the following cases:

- Shell Chemical Co., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. – Case No. 00-1917 MRP (MANx)
- Phillips Petroleum Co. et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. – Case No. 00-1938 MRP (MANx)
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control et al. v. Commercial Realty Projects, Inc. Case No. 95-8773 MRP (MANx)

(4) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 to enable the City Council to consider real property negotiations with Hilltop LLC and to give direction to its

Attachment A

negotiator regarding property known as Lots 6, 7 & 8, Block "M" of the Signal Hill Track. The City's real property negotiator will seek direction from the City regarding site prices, terms and conditions.

It was moved and seconded to recess to Executive (Closed) Session at 6:05 p.m.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

The City Manager indicated any action taken during Executive (Closed) Session would be reported on during the regular portion of the meeting.

COUNCIL RECONVENES

Mayor Noll called the meeting back to order at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Noll led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

The City Attorney reported on discussion undertaken during Executive (Closed) Session. No action was taken.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Denise Damrow, Signal Hill, announced the Concerts in the Park beginning July 9th in Signal Hill Park; Shakespeare by the Sea performing "Twelfth Night" at The Green on July 31st; Thursdays on The Green, a weekly Farmers' Market; and a Blood Drive on July 31st at the library.

Royce Rodeman, Signal Hill, spoke about rent control.

PRESENTATION(S)

MAYOR NOLL INTRODUCES RECENTLY HIRED RECREATION SPECIALIST PATRICIA QUAYE

Mayor Noll introduced recently hired Recreation Specialist Patricia Quaye.

MAYOR NOLL PRESENTS A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Mayor Noll presented a proclamation to Denise Damrow, Parks and Recreation Commissioner recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

COUNCIL ACCEPTS TESTIMONY AND CLOSES PUBLIC HEARING, REGARDING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 03-02, A REQUEST TO CONVERT SPECIAL BUSINESS PERMIT 00-01 TO A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A BAR AND RESTAURANT WITH DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT AT 1922 CHERRY AVENUE AND AN OFF-SITE PARKING LOT AT 2030 19TH STREET IN THE CR, COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL, ZONING DISTRICT, TO JULY 22, 2003

The City Clerk read the form of notice.

The Director of Community Development presented the staff report.

Mayor Noll opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m. He invited anyone wishing to speak on this matter to come forward.

Richard C. Brizendine, attorney for Monte Carlo, Long Beach, spoke in favor of the Conditional Use Permit. Requested a continuance to discuss dismissal of pending lawsuit and to review the Conditions of Approval.

Daniel Camacho, Signal Hill, stated his concerns regarding the 18 and over nights.

Daniel Camacho, Sr., Signal Hill, reiterated what his son stated regarding the 18 and over nights.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Noll closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Wilson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Ward to close the public hearing and continue the consideration of the Conditional Use Permit until the next Council meeting of July 22, 2003.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 2003-07-5320, APPROVING NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 5/13/03(1), RELATIVE TO AN URGENCY INTERIM ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADULT ORIENTED BUSINESSES AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF; AND ADOPTS URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2003-07-1320; ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADULT ORIENTED BUSINESS AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

The City Clerk read the form of notice.

The Director of Community Development presented the staff report.

Mayor Noll opened the public hearing at 7:53 p.m. He invited anyone wishing to speak on this matter to come forward. There being none, Mayor Noll closed the public hearing at 7:53 p.m.

The City Attorney read title of Resolution No. 2003-07-5320, entitled:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 5/13/03(1), RELATIVE TO AN URGENCY INTERIM ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADULT ORIENTED BUSINESSES AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

It was moved by Council Member Wilson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Ward to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2003-07-5320.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

The City Attorney read title of Urgency Ordinance No. 2003-07-1320, entitled:

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADULT ORIENTED BUSINESSES AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

It was moved by Council Member Wilson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Ward to waive further reading and adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 2003-07-1320.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

COUNCIL HOLDS A PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON VIEW PROTECTION, LEGAL ENFORCEMENT AND MORATORIUM ISSUES

The City Manager presented the staff report.

Mayor Noll opened the floor for discussion at 8:10 p.m.

Mary Oliphant, Signal Hill, stated she understands the process much better now.

Mel Pinkham, Signal Hill, stated he appreciates what the City has done, but will keep a watch on what happens next.

Ed Fajardo, Signal Hill, stated he felt view protection ordinance favors existing residents.

Jerry Gross, Long Beach, stated he was a prospective homebuilder, supporting the existing ordinance.

Danny Ray, Signal Hill, stated he was against the moratorium.

Dorothy Odenheimer, Signal Hill, stated she was willing to work with the City on a compromise instead of a moratorium.

Mike Foley, Signal Hill, owns a project at 2230 Molino Ave., supports existing system and is against the moratorium request.

Peggy Owen, Signal Hill, stated her concerns with the Council's interpretation of the view protection ordinance.

Louis Dare, Signal Hill, stated he felt the existing ordinance is very clear on view protection, it just needs to be followed.

Scott Wilcox, Signal Hill, commented on the impacts to the hilltop area.

Thien Ta, Signal Hill, stated he owns the lot next to Mike Foley and is against any moratorium.

Robert Lee, Long Beach, stated he was opposed to the moratorium concept.

John Rees, Torrance, stated he opposed the moratorium.

Jody Weikal, Signal Hill, suggested there are different ways to deal with hilltop view issues.

Tom Shollin, Hilltop, LLC, Signal Hill, stated he was unable to contact some of the people who had purchased property. He supports the workshop idea as a way to get the information out there about the view protection ordinance.

George Papadakis, Long Beach, stated he was opposed to the moratorium and supported the workshop concept.

Kim Emery, Signal Hill, opposed to the moratorium, but was in support of the workshop concept.

Jay Feinberg, Signal Hill, stated he was representing owners of 2055-75 Freeman Avenue, and that he felt the existing procedures work.

Gloria Marin, Long Beach, representing the Renaissance Group, commented on the lack of notice for this issue, stated she was opposed to the moratorium.

Richard Corrington, Signal Hill, stated the construction on the Q lots was impacting his property and that he had filed a complaint with the EPA regarding soil issues.

Loren Miller, Long Beach, stated he felt the Planning Department did a comprehensive job when working with prospective builders.

Bill Meyer, Torrance, stated he was opposed to the moratorium.

Mayor Noll closed the floor to comments at 8:50 p.m. He then thanked everyone for their comments.

Council Member Wilson thanked everyone for their comments and stated he feels the process works, balancing protection of existing views with new development.

Vice Mayor Ward stated she was against any kind of moratorium and supports having a community workshop.

Council Member Forester stated he was also against a moratorium and it was his belief that the Planning Commission process works. He also supports a community workshop.

Mayor Noll agreed the Planning Commission process works and that he fully supports a community workshop to address these issues.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Ward, and seconded by Council Member Forester to hold a joint Community Workshop with the Planning Commission on July 29th in the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. to discuss view protection issues.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

CHAIR WILSON CALLS THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO ORDER FOR A JOINT DISCUSSION

Chair Wilson called the Redevelopment Agency to order at 9:17 p.m.

CHAIR NOLL CALLS THE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY TO ORDER FOR A JOINT DISCUSSION

Chair Noll called the Public Financing Authority to order at 9:17 p.m.

COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 2003-07-5321, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF ITS NOT TO EXCEED $56,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION BONDS IN TWO SERIES AND TAKING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 2003-07-362, AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED $56,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION BONDS, IN TWO SERIES APPROVING, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING EXECUTION OF FIRST SUPPLEMENT AND SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO INDENTURE OF TRUST RELATING THERETO, AUTHORIZING SALE OF SUCH BONDS, APPROVING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER OFFICIAL ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 2003-07-02, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION PARITY REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES A, AND 2003 TAXABLE TAX ALLOCATION PARITY BONDS, SERIES B, UPON CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, APPROVING DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT RELATING THERETO, AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

The Deputy City Manager and Suzanne Harrell from Harrell & Co. presented the staff report.

The City Attorney read title of Resolution No. 2003-07-5321, entitled:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF ITS NOT TO EXCEED $56,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION BONDS IN TWO SERIES AND TAKING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

It was moved by Council Member Forester and seconded by Council Member Wilson to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2003-07-5321.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

The Agency Counsel read title of Resolution No. 2003-07-362, entitled:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED $56,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION BONDS, IN TWO SERIES APPROVING, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING EXECUTION OF FIRST SUPPLEMENT AND SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO INDENTURE OF TRUST RELATING THERETO, AUTHORIZING SALE OF SUCH BONDS, APPROVING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER OFFICIAL ACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

It was moved by Mr. Noll, and seconded by Ms. Ward to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2003-07-362.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: CHAIR WILSON
VICE-CHAIR FORESTER
MR. NOLL
MS. WARD

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MS. HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

The City Attorney read title of Resolution No. 2003-07-02, entitled:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE SIGNAL HILL PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF SIGNAL HILL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROJECT NO. 1, 2003 TAX ALLOCATION PARITY REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES A, AND 2003 TAXABLE TAX ALLOCATION PARITY BONDS, SERIES B, UPON CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, APPROVING DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT RELATING THERETO, AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

It was moved by Mr. Forester, and seconded by Mr. Wilson to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2003-07-02.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: CHAIR NOLL
VICE CHAIR WARD
MR. FORESTER
MR. WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MS. HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

It was moved by Mr. Forester, and seconded by Mr. Wilson to adjourn the Public Financing Authority.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: CHAIR NOLL
VICE CHAIR WARD
MR. FORESTER
MR. WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MS. HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair Noll adjourned the Public Financing Agency at 9:28 p.m.

CHAIR WILSON RECESSES THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AT 9:28 P.M.

COUNCIL SELECTS SEPTEMBER 27, 2003, FROM NOON TO 2:30 P.M. FOR DISCOVERY WELL PARK DEDICATION; APPROVES THE HOURS OF OPERATION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WITH PARK GATES TO CLOSE AT 9 P.M.; AND APPROVES RENTAL USAGE OF FACILITIES TO BE LIMITED TO "RESIDENTS ONLY" FOR THE FIRST YEAR TO ALLOW FOR REVIEW OF PARKING AND FACILITY USAGE ISSUES

The Director of Community Services presented the staff report.

Denise Damrow, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, responded to questions.

It was decided to hold the Discovery Well Park dedication on September 27, 2003 from noon to 2:30 p.m. and approve the hours of operation as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission with park gates to close at 9 p.m.; and approve rental usage of facilities to be limited to "residents only" for the first year to allow for review of parking and facility usage issues, but limiting "no-fee" HOA meetings to two per year, per group. The Commission will review after three months and recommend revisions as appropriate.

COUNCIL APPROVES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO CLOSE THE SIGNAL HILL SKATE PARK AND DONATE THE EQUIPMENT TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE DEPARTMENT

The Director of Community Services presented the staff report.

Council Member Wilson indicated he would be voting against this item, as he believes the City needs to have a skate park for the kids.

It was moved by Council Member Forester, and seconded by Vice Mayor Ward to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation to close the Signal Hill Skate Park and donate the equipment to the City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Department.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNCIL APPROVES CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NOS. 13 THROUGH 16 AND 18 THROUGH 20, EXCLUSIVE OF ITEM NO. 17

The following Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Council at one time, without discussion. Any item may be removed by a Council member or member of the audience for discussion.

The City Manager indicated the following items were listed on the Consent Calendar for Council approval:

(13) Renewal of Permit to Use Space at Long Beach's Transmitter Facility in the City of Signal Hill

Summary: The permit to use space at Long Beach's transmitter facility in the City of Signal Hill expired on February 28, 2003. We were notified in February by Long Beach that the previous permit was expiring, given a verbal quote as to our new monthly rate and told the new permit agreements would be forthcoming.

Recommendation: Approve the permit to use space at Long Beach's transmitter facility in the City of Signal Hill between the City of Long Beach and the City of Signal Hill commencing retroactively to March 1, 2003, through February 28, 2008, and authorize the Mayor to execute the permit.

(14) Signal Hill Sewerage Facilities Agreement with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District

Summary: The Los Angeles County Sanitation District has agreed to take ownership of the City's existing sewer facilities. An Agreement has been prepared to establish the terms and conditions of the sewer facility acquisition. Through this acquisition, the City will be relieved of sewer system maintenance and operation costs saving the City up to $300,000 annually.

Recommendations: 1) Authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Signal Hill and County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County, in a form approved by the City Attorney; and 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute Exhibits D (Bill of Sale) and E (Quitclaim Deed) of the Agreement.

(15) Settlement Agreement and Release Between the City of Signal Hill and Chevron Pipe Line Company

Summary: Pipeline removal is a component of the Spring Street Widening Project. The execution of a Settlement Agreement and Release with Chevron Pipe Line Company is needed to resolve easement related issues and establish the method of payment for removal of existing Chevron pipelines.

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement and Release between the City of Signal Hill and Chevron Pipe Line Company in a form approved by the City Attorney.

(16) Approval of Final Tract Map No. 53228

Summary: Hilltop LLC, on behalf of the Signal Hill Company, is requesting approval of Final Tract Map No. 53228. This map covers the area known as Promontory West. Staff has determined that the final tract map substantially conforms to the approved tentative map and meets the City's conditions of approval required to receive final tract map approval.

Recommendation: Approve Final Tract Map No. 53228.

(17) Resolution Establishing Health Benefits

Summary: The City has recently been informed that all part-time employees who are enrolled in PERS may be eligible for health benefits through CalPERS. This resolution will define the employer contribution rate for health benefits for full-time employees and part-time employees.

Recommendation: Waive further reading and adopt a resolution repealing Resolution No. 2003-05-5297, and fixing the employer's contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.

(18) Claim for Damages

Summary: The City has received a claim for damages from Richard Eugene Kohn.

Recommendation: Deny the claim of Richard Eugene Kohn.

(19) Warrant Register Dated July 8, 2003

Summary: The Warrant Register is a listing of all general checks issued since the prior warrant register and warrants to be released upon City Council approval.

Recommendation: Authorize payment of Warrant Register dated July 8, 2003.

(20) Minutes of the Following Meeting(s)

Regular Meeting of June 24, 2003.

Recommendation: Approve.

Item No. 17 was pulled by David Frick, Signal Hill, for discussion.

It was moved by Council Member Forester, and seconded by Council Member Wilson to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 13 through 16 and 18 through 20, exclusive of Item No. 17.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNCIL APPROVES CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NO. 17 – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING HEALTH BENEFITS

David Frick, Signal Hill, pulled this item, stating he felt it should have been listed under City Manager's Reports, as it impacts the City budget.

The City Manager presented the staff report.

The City Attorney read title of Resolution No. 2003-07-5322, entitled:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2003-05-5297, AND FIXING THE EMPLOYER'S CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE ACT

It was moved by Council Member Forester and seconded by Vice Mayor Ward to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2003-07-5322.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR NOLL
VICE MAYOR WARD
COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Wilson requested a review of park operating hours for winter and summer.

Council Member Wilson asked for a status report on the installation of the illuminated crosswalk.

The Public Works Director responded to his questions.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Shannon Murphy, Planning Commissioner, Signal Hill, stated she was disappointed in the Council's decision to remove the Skate Park from Signal Hill, stating she felt it wasn't promoted enough by Community Services.

Denise Damrow, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Signal Hill, stated she also was disappointed the Skate Park was being removed.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice Mayor Ward, and seconded by Council Member Forester to adjourn to a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA, 90755.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:	MAYOR NOLL VICE MAYOR WARD COUNCIL MEMBER FORESTER COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
ABSTAIN:	NONE

Mayor Noll adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

[redacted]

Michael J. Noll
Mayor

Attest:

[redacted]

Kathleen L. Pacheco
City Clerk

Richard Kaump
2254 Gaviota #32
Signal Hill, CA 90755

June 24, 2003

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
City of Signal Hill
2175 Cherry Ave
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Subject: Fire Service Options

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

As a resident of the City of Signal Hill for the past 5 years, I have been pleased with the City's positive direction in supporting high-level public safety services for our community. However, the recent recommendations submitted by the City's subcommittee assigned to study this issue greatly disturbs me.

Their recommendation to change our fire protection and paramedic services to the Los Angeles County Fire Department may significantly reduce and negatively impact the emergency response times to fires and life-threatening medical events that occur in Signal Hill.

As previous program manager for paramedic and ambulance services for a public-safety fire agency, I was responsible for developing methods to gauge and review the fire department's response time performance to fires and medical emergencies. I was also assigned as project manager to write and develop proposals for fire suppression, paramedic, and ambulance services to our neighboring cities. During the past 20 years I have developed strategies to measure response time performance by fire departments to assess which deployment model best serves a local community.

At various stages of my career, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with members of the Long Beach and Los Angeles County Fire Departments. Both organizations are excellent and are dedicated to providing the best services possible to the communities they serve. The recommendations made in this correspondence relate solely on the ability of which department is best positioned with resources to provide acceptable and timely response into the City of Signal Hill.

Based on my past experience and my concern of moving too quickly without adequate study and community input, I ask the Signal Hill City Council to postpone its decision until more information can be made available to Council Members, community residents, and businesses.

The basis of this recommendation is as follows:

1. **Response Data Needed:** A study of the actual response time performance as provided by the Long Beach Fire Department should be obtained and reviewed. I am aware the Long Beach Fire Department recently acquired analysis and modeling software that can graphically display their response time performance on a map, block by block, so true response time comparisons can be made. But as stated in their report to the City, it is not yet operational.

   This same software enables the department to provide "what-if" comparisons so changes in station location, response plans, and reconfiguration of resources can be compared using past data. This will be extremely important to develop so our decision makers can view the impacts of deleting the closer Long Beach Fire stations from the City's emergency response resources.

2. **Reduction of Immediate Resources:** The Los Angeles County Fire Agreement would reduce immediate resources by 83%. Without benefit of the software, I have calculated the availability of fire stations using a commercially available mapping program to calculate various distances of fire stations from City Hall. The data comparing the closest and immediately available fire stations for each of the two proposals are represented below.

Distance	Long Beach Fire Stations*	Los Angeles County Fire Stations*	% Change Increase or (Decrease) in Immediate Resources
1 5 Miles	3	1	(67%)
3 Miles	13	2	(85%)
5 Miles	23	4	(83%)

**Includes the Signal Hill Fire Station*

   One of the key determinants in providing quality fire protection and paramedic services is delivering the appropriate resources of people and equipment to the scene of an emergency in the least amount of time. Although the Los Angeles County Fire Department has a great number of resources, the location, availability and deliverability of those resources in a timely manner are the concerns raised here. These changes in service levels need more study and community input.

Using the same commercial software as above, calculation of travel times were made. Although emergency response times can vary due to time of day, traffic, ready time, and other factors, the data below shows comparative time using a fixed travel speed for all stations.

Distance	Travel Time	Long Beach Stations	County Fire Stations
1.5 Mile Radius	Less than 5 Minutes	3	1
3.0 Mile Radius	6-11 Minutes	13	2
5.0 Mile Radius	12-15 Minutes	23	4

Since only one Los Angeles County Fire Station would be located within the 1.5 mile radius, two stations within the 3-mile radius, and only 4 stations within the 5 miles radius, it becomes apparent that overall response times will likely increase as units must travel greater distances to arrive on scene of emergency incidents.

3. **Single Engine Deployment Within Signal Hill.** Increased travel times required to respond to emergencies in Signal Hill cannot be sufficiently mitigated by maintaining a single paramedic-assessment engine company within the City limits.

   This station and its equipment are part of a system in which additional resources must be called upon to provide timely service. Back-up services when the engine is busy, in training, or out of service must be addressed. This is especially important during structure fire responses, multiple incidents occurring simultaneously, and multiple victim incidents where 2 or more persons require immediate treatment. The need for additional immediate resources is critical.

4. **Second, Third, And Forth In Unit Response Times Are Equally Important As First In Response Times.** The amount of time needed to provide adequate resources at the scene of structure fires, heavy rescues, and hazardous material incidents is dependent upon the location and travel time of the resources required. Simply put, replacing resources now available within a 3-mile radius of the City with fewer units further away will increase the likelihood of a negative outcome; i.e. loss of life, greater fire spread, and increased financial loss.

   Location and number of available fire stations, types of equipment stationed, and the numbers of personnel assigned to that equipment are interdependent. Separating Station 27 and its existing resources from the Long Beach Fire Department's preplanned response network and decreasing staffing levels can SERIOUSLY disrupt response capabilities and increase risk to firefighters and the public.

5. **Why Response Times Are Important:** Both medical aid and fire incidents require fast response times to save lives and preserve property. The speed in which these services are delivered should be the basis of deciding the best response plan and which agency is best located to provide the resources in the most rapid manner

   - During cardiac arrest, irreversible brain damage can occur after five minutes without CPR
   - A person's chance of survival decreases 7% for every minute it takes to shock a fibrillating heart
   - A fire can double in size every 30 seconds until sufficient water and resources are applied to the fire
   - New firefighter safety regulations (NFPA Standard 1710) requires at least four firefighters be at scene before entering a building fire or other hazardous area unless a rescue is needed.

   Longer response times of equipment and adequate personnel to the scene of an emergency may place firefighters and those in need of assistance at greater risk.

6. **Public Safety Commitment**: I understand the City's General Fund has not been directly paying for fire and paramedic services. These funds are obtained through a three party agreement where taxes collected by the Los Angeles County Fire Department are paid to Long Beach Fire Department to provide services within Signal Hill.

   Long Beach Fire Department stated in their May 12, 2003 letter that new costs now make it impossible to continue to deliver the same service level as previously provided unless the City of Signal Hill pays a subsidy. It appears this is the first request for a subsidy since the contract was implemented 16 years ago and to date, the City has not had to pay additional costs from their General Fund for fire and paramedic services.

   Since the residents and business are paying for the services through county taxes, I have used the police department's budget to see if Long Beach's request is somehow out-of-line with current conditions. The chart below shows the budget for the Signal Hill Police Department for two comparative years to determine if the percentage increase requested by Long Beach is unreasonable.

Signal Hill Police Department

Year	Budgeted Amount	# Personnel	$ Increase	% Increase
1993-94	$3,485,600	42		
2003-04	$5,740,900	46	$2,255,300	39%

It appears the additional $27,505 per month increase (or $330,060 annually) is comparable to the increase provided to the police department. The additional $330,060 requested is 29% above the fire assessment district's payment to Long Beach and less than the 39% increase provided to the Police Department. During this time, public safety positions and resources for the Police Department were increased, not decreased, when compared to the Los Angeles County Fire Department proposal.

7. **Budget Considerations:** I wish to compliment the Council and City Staff for their strong fiscal foresight in maintaining such healthy reserve balances. But I am concerned that with such healthy reserves of $3,931,393 (28%) of General Fund revenues projected at the end of Fiscal Year 2003-04 and an additional reserve fund for Economic Uncertainties of $1,471,869 (10.5 %) of the General Fund revenues, we are sacrificing responsive fire protection and paramedic services for fear of reducing reserve fund balances. It appears the City is well positioned to handle the increase needed for police and fire services without reductions in service levels and the increase proposed is consistent with maintaining strong public-safety programs.

Summary

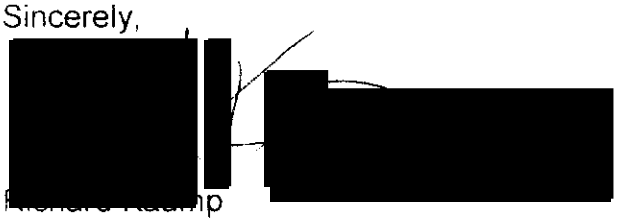
Based on the information I have presented in this letter, I request the Signal Hill City Council maintain their strong commitment to public safety and at a minimum, support further study of the issues presented here. I understand the Council is pressed to make a decision to meet certain Los Angeles County Fire Department deadlines.

However, it appears sufficient funds can be made available within the General Fund to offset this cost increase required by Long Beach. If we continue with the Long Beach Fire Department agreement, we retain the option to cancel the contract with 6 months notice. This should give the city enough time to fully address the issues of comparable response capabilities using actual data and receive additional comments from the community. I am sure many of the residents feel as I do and do not wish to see a reduction of public safety services or an increase in emergency response times. This is a small price to pay for the certainty of the right decision.

I trust you will postpone this decision until all the facts have been presented to the City Council as well as interested community residents and businesses. This issue deserves the same public input as zone changes, new ordinances, or other changes that affect the residents of our community.

I appreciate your time in reviewing my comments. You may contact me anytime via my cell phone at (714) 313-1703, my office (562) 432-9833 or email rkaump@aol.com.

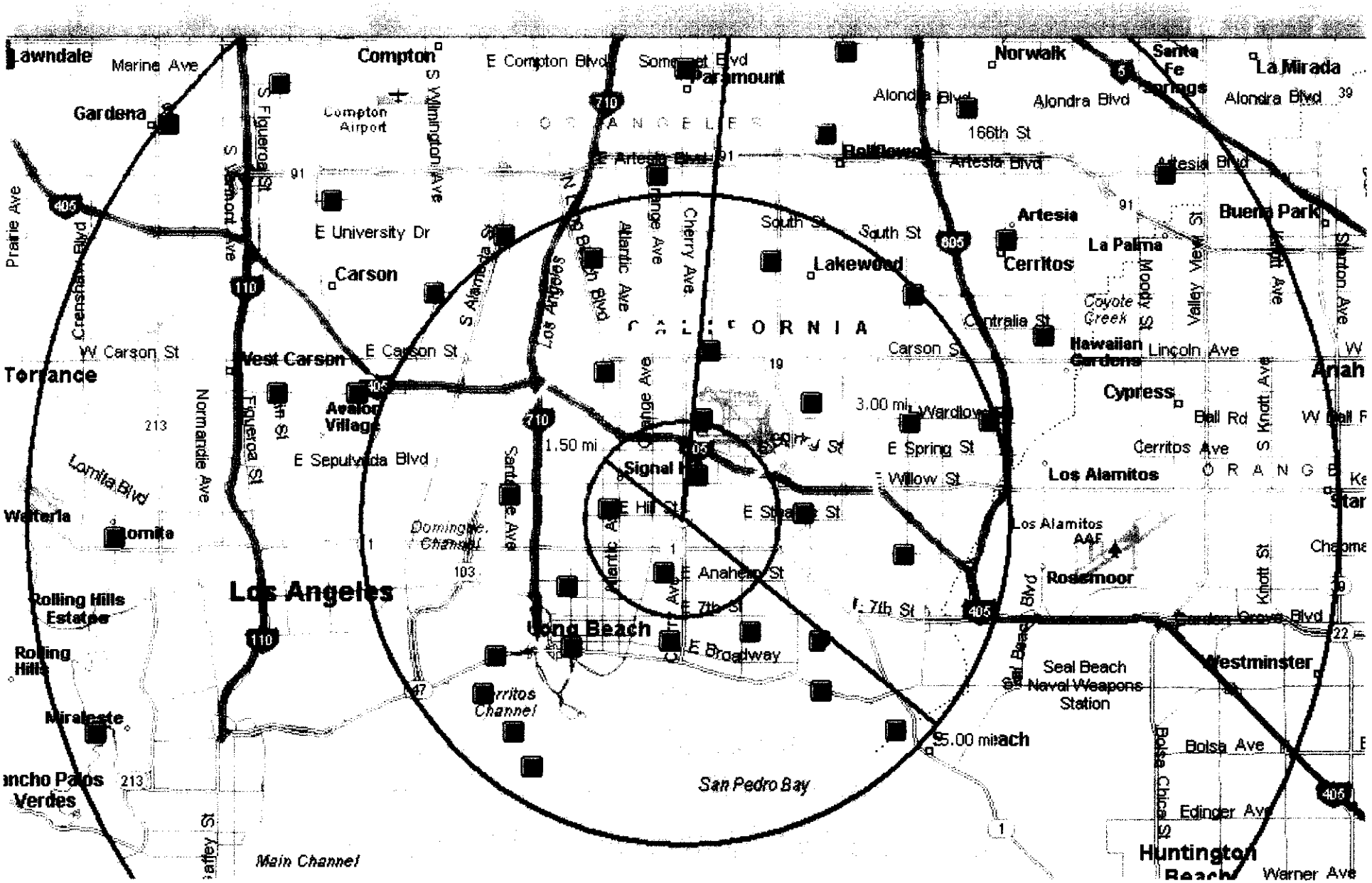
Sincerely,



Richard Kaump

cc: Kenneth C. Farfsing, Signal Hill City Manager

Attachments (1): Area Fire Department Stations



1.5 Miles ○ 5.0 Miles

3.0 Miles ○ 10 Miles

■ LA County Fire Station

■ Long Beach Fire Station

Immediate Resources < 5 Miles

23 Long Beach / 4 LA County

June 23, 2003

City Council
CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
2175 Cherry Avenue
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Re: Potential Contract Regarding Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Dear Sirs:

I have been a resident of the city of Lakewood since 1955. I take pride in my city and I have been blessed with a wonderful community for 48 years. I have always felt safe knowing my city has the resources to respond to life's emergencies.

The City of Signal Hill recently announced its intention to seek the services of Los Angeles County to provide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services to Signal Hill. I am concerned with this decision because apparently the city of Lakewood would be sharing its Paramedic with Signal Hill.

The City of Lakewood has 87,000 residents in comparison to Signal Hill's 10, 284 residents. Further, the City of Lakewood has many Senior Citizens including myself. The difference in the populations is large and alarming. The questions becomes this; if the City of Signal Hill has an emergency and receives response and at the same time we experience an emergency in Lakewood, who gets preference?

I would like to receive an answer to this question. Without all the facts, it does appear that this may not be the best decision for either Signal Hill or Lakewood. I feel strongly that their should be a voice for the residents of these cities and I would like to understand how the new system will work without jeopardizing the excellent service Lakewood has received throughout the years.

I look forward to your response. Thank you for your consideration of time.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

LUCY GARCIA
4628 Pixie Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
(562) 355-8738