

East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2020

6:30 pm

Members Present: Joann Pavlinec, Victoria Lynn Curtis, Lisa Raffel, Tom Janci

Members Absent: Brenda Williams

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm and the roll was taken

Presentation Items:

P.1 **Supervisor Gioia** gave some background on the County's response to Covid-19. He mentioned that there is a 250 bed overflow medical center space at the Craneway Pavilion which has not yet needed to be used. He noted that there was a slight increase, to 75%, in the number of ICU beds in use. He encouraged residents to continue wearing a mask as it is one of the single most important ways residents can help prevent the spread of Covid-19. About 75% of deaths related to Covid-19 have occurred in senior congregate care facilities. Another point of focus for the County's Health Department is the need for outreach to the Latinx population. The Latinx communities represent about half of the Covid-19 cases which is about double their rate of the county's population. The County passed a rent freeze and eviction ordinance to protect tenants. It applies to both the unincorporated areas and all cities in the county unless a city has a stronger ordinance. The current order is valid until September 30, 2020. Residents have until January 30, 2021 to pay back due rent.

P.2 **Contra Costa County Health Officer Chris Farnitano** made a presentation. He shared that we were in a second wave and encouraged residents to continue wearing a mask as it is one of the most important steps that can be taken to reduce the spread of Covid-19. A lot of the backlog regarding testing has begun to clear up. Some parts of West County continue to be hotspots for Covid-19 due to many people being front line workers in conjunction with social and family gatherings. Health Services is adding more test sites in West County including in North Richmond and Richmond Civic Center.

P.3 **Assistant Chief Lon Goetsch** gave an overview of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire). ConFire is a full-service agency that provides fire suppression and advanced life support services as well as providing 911 dispatch services. There are 26 Fire Stations, 28 companies and more than 400 employees. There are 2 Fire Stations in West County, Station 69 on Appian Way and Station 70 on San Pablo Ave. in San Pablo, but will soon be moving to 23rd and Market Street in San Pablo. The district anticipates the new Station 70 will be complete in the Spring of 2021. All of the fire agencies in West County operate under an automatic aid

agreement and ConFire provides dispatch services for all of those agencies except for Richmond. The district is taking measures to protect its firefighters and the residents they are responding to from Covid-19. In an effort to fight complacency within their agency, they held a districtwide safety stand-down. Portions of East Richmond Heights are within the high fire hazard severity zone, making East Richmond Heights a priority for ConFire. Chief Goetsch also spoke of a new normal in terms of wildland fires. The wildfire season is beginning earlier and lasting longer.

Discussion/Action Items:

There were no discussion items.

Standing Committees:

No committee reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by Office of Supervisor John Gioia.