

Good afternoon, Del Rey Oaks!

This will be a longer note because there is so much happening. Thank you all for continuing to be generous and kind to one another during the ongoing pandemic. City Managers and the County CAO continue to meet regularly regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is coordinating closely with surrounding jurisdictions as we work together to protect the population, especially our most vulnerable while opening businesses and facilities. All City businesses are open and operating under public health guidelines. While our tennis courts are open for singles play and our park is open for people to enjoy open space, our dog park, team sports facilities, and Old Town Hall remain closed. The County's most recent guidance regarding social circles will require individual discipline as it will be virtually impossible to enforce. So many people we see are doing the right thing: maintaining appropriate physical distancing, wearing face masks and washing hands. Please continue to follow public health orders as we progress through the pandemic period. Thank you!

The City team is back in our offices wearing masks and getting back into the swing of things. Kim has moved into the office across from mine, and Karen is in the open area. Phone lines have been rerouted. Desks moved a bit. All in all, very good to be back together as a team. We have installed plexiglass on the counter, signage for spacing and limited access inside City Hall. We plan to reopen in late July but only for appointments so we can protect our small staff and the public. We are always reachable by email and phone during business hours.

I want to thank our Police Department, especially our Chief, for the progress made over the past several years to improve our department and its capabilities to provide community policing to our City. The progress made on our Policy and Procedures manual, police training, acquisition of body cameras and non-lethal capabilities, community outreach and communication, and integration into regional organizations to improve investigations and service have been superb. I want to thank our community for being thoughtful in this challenging time where righteous anger and frustration regarding the murder of George Floyd and others has driven a call for introspection and change. Kim, Karen, Ron, Chief and I participated in a silent vigil that showed the deep passion that exists in our community to continue improving our understanding of one another and to promote equality and justice for all. I want to thank those who have participated in our conversations with Chief and his officers about policing, including our Mayor and other Council members and planning Commissioners. As a City staff we are committed to improving. It is why we are implementing a program for all staff to help us better understand our biases and prejudices and effectively modify our behavior. The program is in use by the City of Salinas and I will lead the effort here at the staff level to ensure it has the appropriate level of support.

The City successfully defended a suit brought by LandWatch of Monterey County against its recently adopted Housing Element and environmental analysis. LandWatch withdrew the lawsuit, but not before costing the City significant staff effort defending against a frivolous lawsuit and in spite of the City's attempts to accommodate LandWatch's concerns prior to adoption.

As the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) prepares to shutter its doors on June 30th the City has been working diligently to put in place the agreements Council has approved with FORA and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD). It has been a busy time! We signed the Joint Community Facilities Agreement, which will allow the transfer of habitat management funds to the City. We signed the agreement for water services with MCWD. We signed the Memorandum of Agreement with FORA regarding the transfer of the South Boundary Road project, and the Whitson Engineers contract transfer from FORA to

the City. The two escrow accounts for the General Jim Moore intersection and South Boundary Road have been opened. All documents and agreements are executed and FORA has transferred roughly \$9.5 million dollars to the City for use on South Boundary Road and habitat management.

We are excited to now be the lead for the South Boundary Road project and we look forward with discussing with the community where the project stands and what the future might hold.

Unfortunately after attempting to negotiate with the California Native Plant Society in good faith for nine months about the precise size and location of the nature reserve, to no avail, CNPS and Molly Erickson are suing the City, FORA and LAFCO in a flurry of legal activity in the last few weeks of FORA's existence. The City continues to desire a resolution that is agreeable to both the City and CNPS. Unfortunately, that negotiation is now happening under needless litigation by Molly Erickson, costing both the City and CNPS staff and attorney time.

The Council passed the City's two-year budget Tuesday evening, which thanks to tight controls on spending, shows a modest surplus this coming year. This, in spite of the pandemic induced recession impacting City revenues. Great work by staff and the budget committee for the past several months!

We are moving forward with projects that had ben delayed until budget approval. We executed contracts for solar panels on City Hall, which will be installed over the Summer. We also signed the street slurry contract to pave Work, Portola, Los Encinos and the cul du sacs along Angelus in early Fall.

I held several Coffees with the CM with Chief joining on one and Sergeant Perez joining on another as we continue to engage the public. Please join me Tuesday June 30th at 6pm for the next Coffee with the CM.

Finally, the Regional Parks District met and approved the FORTAG master agreement, which is an important milestone. The City Council approved the master agreement recently so the project continues to make progress.

That's all for now. Thank you again for being patient and disciplined during the pandemic! It is a pleasure to serve this community.

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