

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
December 7, 2020**

Zoom Conference

GCCOG President Maria Davila called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

PRESENT: President Maria Davila, City of South Gate (E)
1st Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon (E)
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier (E)
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower (E)
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce (E)
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey (E)
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada (E)
Member Ariel Pe, City of Lakewood
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Heber Marquez, City of Maywood
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk
Member Vilma Cuellar Stallings, City of Paramount
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs (E)
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill (E)
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn (E)
Member Kimberly Ortega, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Sharon Weissman, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT: Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
2nd Vice President Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos (E)
Member Marilyn Sanabria, City of Huntington Park (E)
Member Cory Moss, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
(E) Executive Committee

ALSO PRESENT: Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager – City of Lakewood; Nancy Pfeffer, Melani Smith, Karen Heit, Stephanie Cadena, Joel Arevalos, Genny Cisneros, , Ivy Tsai – COG Staff; Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs – City of Long Beach; Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison – Port of Long Beach; Karen Lee, Management Analyst – City of Artesia.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Office Assistant Joel Arevalos. There were no amendments to the agenda. There were no public comments. There were no Matters from Staff.

President Davila turned to Reports from Committees. Director Pfeffer said the staff report and letter provided for the Board's consideration are different from what was presented last week. She recapped the Board's direction in the staff report and also added a reference to the new state orders being triggered based on ICU bed capacity by region. Our COG region, and all of LA County is now part of SoCal region that falls under this order, which includes restrictions on outdoor dining and other closures. She noted that Orange County falls under same order.

Director Pfeffer reviewed the contents of the new letter addressed to County supervisors. The letter begins by thanking the County and Public Health Department for their efforts to protect residents. The letter notes the disproportionate impacts in our region, and asks to rescind the outdoor dining ban. It also notes concerns about economic impacts due to the ban. Director Pfeffer also noted the discussion from last week about how different situations are treated differently when they should not. One major change is a new map added as an attachment to the letter to show COVID-19 prevalence in our region, and helps make the point that a one size solution does not fit all. There are stark differences in rates of COVID-19 as shown by the map. Director Pfeffer said this motivates discussion of asking for more localized ability to set policies. While we may be under a blanket order now, this could change in the future.

Further, the letter includes a direct request for County supervisors to make any and all of these things possible by doing all they can to provide economic and financial support for severe impacts to businesses. It asks to look into allocating potential County resources and seek additional state and federal resources, and the COG would be happy to support and advocate alongside with the County.

Immediate Past President Dutra thanked staff for their work, and said it is a great letter that captured the intent of the Board.

Member Wilson recommended we add ideas on how to open things up while following safety precautions.

Member Dutra thanked Wilson for his recommendations. Earlier in the afternoon, Dutra sent Director Pfeffer a paragraph to include in the letter that considers the new state recommendations and stay at home order. The language adds that once the state rescinds the stay-at-home order, the county could go back to consideration or rescinding their policy.

Director Pfeffer read the requested language, which was written in collaboration between Member Dutra and Lakewood City Manager Thaddeus McCormick.

Member Margarita Rios praised staff for their work on the letter, and for addressing how our communities of color have been impacted. She added that the new language proposed by Member Dutra already appears to be addressed in the letter.

Member Alex Saab agreed with the letter and said he is in support. Member Ray Dunton also agreed it is a great letter.

Member Ed Wilson said he thinks it's a good letter and asked how many cities have mandated masks orders that they are enforcing. Dutra replied that it is unlikely this is happening. Member

Wilson suggested to include as part of our solution and responsibility to have a mandated mask order within individual cities that is enforced. He also shared on family members that have contracted the virus. He said we cannot tell where infections came from, but can look at hospitals. There is now less than 15% ICU availability countywide. One we get to 0% availability, it is too late. He emphasized that we are going to see even more cases and less ability to treat them because our healthcare system is at the brink. While he is okay with the letter, he added that cities should say they will enact mandatory mask orders.

Director Pfeffer and President Davila noted the chat section of Zoom, where 1st Vice President Cinde Cassidy wrote that Avalon does enforce and is giving \$100 fines for not wearing masks.

President Davila said the City of South Gate does not have the manpower to enforce restrictions. She believes it is a responsibility of each household.

Member Rios motioned to approve with the requested language from Member Dutra. Member Pedro Aceituno seconded. COG staff Arevalos did a roll call and the motion was approved.

There were no matters from board of directors. Under matters from the President, Davila shared that she has a new granddaughter and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Adjournment: President Davila adjourned the meeting at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director