

# City Council Hybrid Meeting (Closed Session - 5:00 PM and Open Session - 6:00 PM)

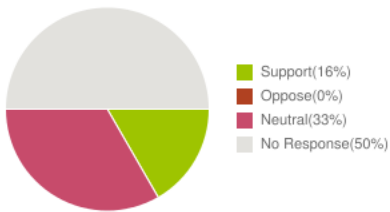
12-12-23 17:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	6	1	0	2

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

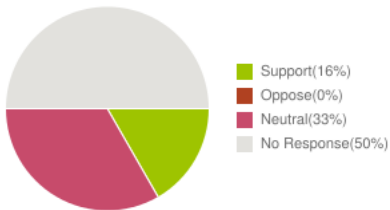
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

### Overall Sentiment



### Agenda Item: eComments for IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

### Overall Sentiment



### Kim Withee

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach

Submitted At: 12:23pm 12-12-23

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent enforcement measures targeting off-leash dogs at Clark Field.

While recognizing the importance of law enforcement, the current approach seems excessively imbalanced given the nature of the infraction. The deployment of multiple police and community service officers, along with the use of drones and numerous vehicles, raises serious questions about the allocation of valuable resources.

During the recent "crackdown" on off-leash dogs, I am aware of at least two violent incidents resulting in serious physical harm to individuals. Shockingly, there was no police presence during these incidents. As a resident of over 15 years who frequently walks after dark, this lack of security is alarming, to say the least. Moreover, as someone connected to local business owners, it is disheartening to learn that patrons are opting for alternative shops and restaurants outside of Hermosa due to safety concerns here.

I strongly urge a reconsideration of the current enforcement strategy. Redirecting police and community service efforts towards issues that significantly impact public safety should be an immediate priority. The current trajectory not only jeopardizes the well-being of residents but also risks the reputation of our community.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. I trust that, as our representatives, you will take the necessary steps to address these pressing concerns.

**Brandee Keith**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:23am 12-12-23

On December 1st, South Coast Air Quality Management District's Governing Board voted unanimously to re-elect Senator (Ret.) Vanessa Delgado and City of South Pasadena Councilmember Michael A. Cacciotti to second terms as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Their terms will expire in January 2026. Additionally, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez, and Mayor Larry McCallon have been reappointed.

Senator (Ret.) Delgado has served as Chair of the Governing Board since March 2023. She is the first Latina to Chair the Board in the agency's 48-year history. Delgado was first appointed to South Coast AQMD's Governing Board in May 2019 as the Senate Rules Committee's representative.

The South Coast AQMD Climate Change Committee will meet in hybrid format this Friday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m. Agenda topics include an overview of regulatory policy and framework for climate change as well as look at climate change impacts on Southern California. A copy of the agenda can be accessed at <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>, which will include the Zoom link for those who wish to attend virtually.

**Brian Lo**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:56am 12-11-23

Date: December 11, 2023

From: Brian Lo (blo.brian@gmail.com)

To: Hermosa Beach City Council (cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov)

Subject: Statement regarding Community Service and Police actions over past 2 weeks

This statement is calling for the termination or resignation of CSO Supervisor Sean Tanabe and an independent investigation of Community Services Division Manager Lisa Nichols, Police Chief Paul LeBaron and City Manager Suja Lowenthal for failure of leadership, lack of professional maturity and resource management as illustrated by the actions of Hermosa Beach police and community service officers observed throughout the past 2 weeks. This statement is also calling for an independent commission to audit Hermosa Beach's \$27.7M 2023-2024 public safety budget and operations (55% of our total city budget) with specific emphasis on the scope, remit, training guidelines, codes of conduct and culture of the 16-person Community Services Division (3302), accounting for \$3.3M of the budget. Additionally, this statement serves notice to Hermosa Beach's elected city council members that a complacent and immature leadership approach to governing our town will not be tolerated.

Explicitly, the scope of this statement is broader than a simple complaint of the recent enforcement of Hermosa Beach leash laws in the vicinity of Clark Field; as several other residents have publicly and officially proposed sound logical solutions which should be evaluated by Hermosa Beach city leadership to address resident demand for off-leash dog recreation.

The decision and actions of both the sworn police officers and community service officers on the morning of Monday, December 4, 2023 demonstrated lack of professional maturity in the stewardship of our city's resources. Beginning at approximately 6:30am, at least 10 officers, multiple police and CSO vehicles and the deployment of a drone were utilized to enforce the violation of ordinance 21-1439, animals (i.e., dogs) being unleashed in the city limits (i.e., Clark Field), a non-violent and victimless offense (see Exhibit A). In addition, these ordinance

violators are generally good citizens of Hermosa Beach, contributing to trash clean up from time-to-time on Clark Field. Common sense and public perception can conclude that the magnitude of city assets deployed to enforce such an immaterial ordinance violation is a gross over-reaction and a material waste of our community's resources – especially considering the recent weekend fights that have broken out on Pier Avenue over the past few months and lack of persistent police and community service presence when those events occurred, including recently on Saturday, December 10th where a fight resulted in a man losing his right eye. The resources and tactics deployed on the morning of December 4th are more closely associated with the apprehension of violent criminals, organized crime or counter-insurgency operations. A better tact to approach these ordinance offenders would have been for a community service leader to engage this group in person and seek a resolution without creating a highly antagonistic and militaristic environment.

Furthermore, aside from the tactics of the past week, the conduct of several community service officers has been highly unprofessional and not reflective of the department's stated core values of dedication, integrity, and honesty. When questioned as to why an officer needed to drive the Community Services' 2019 Toyota Tacoma at excessive speed across Clark Field to issue a citation to a 75-year-old female who dropped her dog's leash to avoid being dragged by her dog who jerked his leash, a female community service officer stated that she "worked for the city, I can do whatever I want." Additionally, when a resident complained about the over-watering and flooding of Clark Field and the constant state of trash and debris along the outer edges of Clark Field, a male community service officer stated, "that's not my department, I'm not responsible for that. It's not my problem." These symptomatic comments point to an underlying mindset, culture, training and/or lack of leadership that runs contrary to a common person's understanding of the term "Community Services". Accounting for a material portion of our budget (\$3.3M), the flawed or absent direction of this Division needs to be placed under the leadership of someone the community of Hermosa Beach can entrust to meet our expectations.

Justification aside, along with a dog leash law enforcement problem and Pier Avenue disturbance problems, Hermosa Beach public safety now also has a public perception problem and has lost the trust of many good residents who now feel compelled to speak out. A strong and meaningful action must be taken to correct this.

Respectfully,

Brian Lo

**Anthony Higgins**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:46pm 12-10-23

Dear City Council

Dear City Manager Lowenthal,

Re: \$ 150 million on City Buildings

There is a third option to the city facilities delimita that no one seems to be considering.

The choice we are being given is either spend \$10s of millions catching up on deferred building maintenance and millions of dollars a year more thereafter on ongoing building maintenance costs OR the city can sell off or lease city assets to fund \$100-200 million in new facilities construction.

There is a third option.

RENT, lease or purchase a affordable & utilitarian modular office buildings, modular city yard warehouses and or mobile office trailers.

I will grant you that this may not the bedazzling shiny city hall our City Manager and Councilman Massey & Jackson want to showcase on Pier Ave to supposedly revitalize the downtown business district but that is likely a

false promise anyway.

But it's entirely conceivable these modular buildings and mobile trailers could be placed on the southwest side of the civic center property and any existing recreational amenities relocated to Clark stadium or along Valley drive near the base 3 location.

And the quicker you do this the less money you have to throw away on maintenance of buildings that can no longer be salvaged.

Look, I get that the specter of a small city living modestly within its means probably is not the image that large new hotel owners or downtown bar or restaurants industry want.

That's why you might place these alternative buildings off-pier in the back of the civic center property.

I believe there is enough evidence that this alternative approach could be done for a small fraction of the cost of the options being considered now.

The savings could go fund resident priorities. And we might not have to mortgage our future to achieve it.

Another advantage is it buys time to explore long term partnerships with Manhattan or Redondo to reduce our administrative overhead.

I do find myself in rare agreement with Councilman Jackson on something; we can't afford to do nothing.

I hope the civic center community engagement process will fully consider this option.

Anthony Higgins

**Tony Higgins**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:47pm 12-10-23

Dear City Council

Re: A call for caution

P3s (Public Private Partnerships may have a place especially in city's that have lots of extra of land to sell or commit to long term leases but is that Hermosa?

Mr. Fullerton says the goal is a [large] cost neutral project. He cited 5 cities where he claimed this has or was being done though the evidence was sketchy at best.

San Diego City is 372 sq. mi with a population of 1,400,000 and over 12,000 city employees

Long Beach is 80 sq. mi with a population of 400,000 with 4429 city employees

Torrance is 20 sq. mi with a population of 144,000 and 1480 city employees

Newport Beach is approximately 50 sq. mi including 35 sq. mi of swamp and harbors with 15 miles sq mi. of land, a population 85,000 with 725 city employees

Garden Grove is approximately 18 sq. mi. with a population of 170,000 and 650 city employees

Compare the above to the demographics of Hermosa Beach.

Hermosa Beach is 1.4 sq. mi. and population of 19,000 with 145 city employees

Mr, Fullerton says the goal of a P3 in Hermosa would be a cost neutral project.

And he says the path to cost neutral comes from cost savings from the existing city operations as well as looking at the redevelopment potential and what revenue it could generate.

Is that realistic in Hermosa. That will take a real hard look. Does anyone really think there will be significant FTE cutbacks. At best cost savings from operational efficiencies will only slow the city staff and budget growth rate and this kind of savings needs to be taken with a big grain of salt.

Here is a look at the Newport Beach City Hall experience.

<https://www.ocregister.com/2013/03/25/how-newports-city-hall-came-to-cost-135-million/amp/>

.... But Newport residents have been wary of lengthy building projects after construction of the new Newport Civic Center became a lightning rod of local political debate. Once projected to cost \$49 million, the project grew in size, scope and cost to hit over \$100 million.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/politics/2021/06/17/newport-beach-restores-funding-for-development--invests-in-infrastructure->

Also a concessionaire, [say a hotel operator] fails to fulfill their contractual obligations, the city may be forced to take over project delivery—even when this involves substantial delays and cost overruns.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/public-private-partnerships-fail-look-southern-indianas-69-project/>

It's way to early to say P3 is right or wrong for Hermosa.

It's just one of many options at this point.

Anthony Higgins

## **Howard L**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:33pm 12-09-23

Council, Staff, and others:

<<<< Re: The DRAFT 'Future Agenda Items' for the future HB Council Meeting of January 23, 2024 that are showing on this December 12, 2023 CC Agenda, i.e. (item XV-(c)): >>>>

One of the items listed for the January 23, 2024 HB Council Agenda is a < PRESENTATION FROM CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE (CPA) >.

It would be far better for this item to instead be some form of 'Receive and File' item, rather than a de facto propaganda "Presentation" item.

This would then allow both the Councilmembers and Public to express some of their comments and questions after hearing the presentation, of what's supposedly going on, rather than just being subjected to a one-sided presentation, i.e., a de facto snow-job.

The prior Council, knowing full-well that two of its councilmembers were to be leaving the Council (Stacy Armato and Mary Campbell), and not seeking reelection, and that also would not have to answer to the Hermosa voters, nonetheless voted to force this on HB's Southern California Edison (SCE) customers, abd without any vote of the people or without acceptance of any significant input from the public, most of whom, to this day have not a clue that this CPA is already a done deal.

The HB SCE customers will need to go out of their way to opt-out, and even if they do opt-out, they will still be potentially taxed in various manners due to the hidden costs, and liability to the city for all that can go wrong with the CPA and in other ways too.

Btw, will HB's SCE customers be given plenty of clear notice of when and how to opt-out?

Kindly Council, direct at the minimum, that this be some kind of an agenda "receive-and-file" item, rather than just a sham one-sided "Presentation"-only item.

Again I do note this is significantly a done-CPA-deal that the prior Council (including Justin Massey, Michael Deto, and Ray Jackson who are still present on the Council) signed the city into.

Also again, I note that the items indicated to be on the January 23, 2024 Council Agenda are in DRAFT form at this time.

Direct link (cut and paste) to the items showing in the "Draft" Future Agenda items as showing in this meeting's Agenda Item XV-(a)

<https://hermosabeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12515192&GUID=2FE3D5B1-30BE-4CA5-A9E2-6762BA713CDE>

Howard L.