

Levesque, Jennifer

From: President MercedSeniors <president@mercedseniors.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:42 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Sharon Wardale-Trejo
Subject: Closed Session Items 24-817 & 24-818
Attachments: City Council Statement 08.19.2024.docx

Dear City Council,

Regarding the proposed sale of the Merced Senior Center and McCombs Youth Center to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, we request the following actions:

1. **Commit to Fund Replacement:** Ensure that all proceeds from the sale are dedicated to replacing the senior and youth centers with a multigenerational center, including offices for the City Parks and Community Services administration.
2. **Engage Stakeholders Immediately:** Begin stakeholder engagement by forming focus groups to assess:
 - The evolving needs of seniors and youth, and what a modern, multigenerational facility should include.
 - Community requirements for potential new locations, including safety, proximity to public transportation, socioeconomic factors for grants and parameters for the ongoing partnerships with agencies like the Area Agency on Aging.
3. **Negotiate Lease-Back or Find Temporary Space:** Secure a lease-back agreement for the current buildings or identify an alternative location to ensure there is no disruption in programming.

Actions 1 and 2 can and should be initiated without waiting for a formal offer from the Rail Authority.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

Terri Radney
President
Merced Senior Citizens Inc.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

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August 17, 2024

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Sincerely,

Terri Radney
President
Merced Senior Citizens Inc.

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Jeffrey Carter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 5:42 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Merced City council, public comments,

Merced City Council

>

> We do not believe that a lawyer representing a city that is aware of an ongoing illegal, corrupt and possible criminal activity can ignore that activity or support it or defend it, or the people involved in it. In my opinion. I also believe that it would be the duty of that lawyer to investigate any possible cover up or breaking the law and do something about it. What do you think? In your opinion as a city council member. Shouldn't that lawyer be doing what is best for the people in the city he represents and not a few select individuals.

>

You need to bring back voicemails. They need to be limited to 3 minutes as the courts in the state of California have ruled. Eliminating voicemails just shuts people up. Is that what you want?

> Jeffrey Carter

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Ray Walton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 9:19 PM
To: cityclerk; Ray Walton; Annette Walton
Subject: Is the city council and the city manager

Being fair when it comes to grant a location of Grants?

Statement from the League of United African American Citizens and Mothers Against Bullying (MAB)

We at the League of United African American Citizens feel disrespected and quite literally slapped in the face for not receiving at least the minimum grant that we were awarded previously, despite all that we have accomplished—not only for the city of Merced but also for the entire state of California. Our efforts in the anti-bullying initiative, public service announcements, and partnerships with various community members—including probation officers, police officers, public servants, and district attorneys—have been significant. We have consistently worked to make a positive impact.

It is our hope that in the future, any other applicants seeking grants within the city of Merced will be met with more respect and that the process will be fairer than it was this time around.

Note: The intentional disrespect towards our minority-based nonprofit and the lack of communication from City Manager McBride significantly handicapped our organization's ability to put our best foot forward. We at the League of United African American Citizens (LUAAC) and Mothers Against Bullying (MAB) sincerely hope this is not indicative of a pattern.

Sincerely,

Ray & Annette Walton
CEO & Coo of
LUAAC League of United African American Citizens / Mothers Against
Bullying MAB
Mother's Against Gang Violence MAGV
All Black Lives Matter ABLM

[REDACTED]
Ein 82-3032913

Direct # [REDACTED]
(IT TAKES A VILLAGE)







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From: [Greig Best](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter in support of agenda item 24-752
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:33:50 PM
Attachments: [Commander Cortez Letter.docx](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Best, Greig" [REDACTED]
Date: August 18, 2024 at 7:24:34 PM PDT
To: "Greig L. Best" <greiglbest@comcast.net>
Subject: Letter in support of agenda item 24-752

Hello,

Please accept the attached letter in support of Merced City Council Agenda Item 24-752 for the record.

Thank you,

Greig L. Best
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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August 18, 2024



The Honorable Merced City Council
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to urge you to support City Council Agenda Item 24-752 “Recommendation by the Recreation and Parks Commission to Name the Merced Police South Station After Joe Cortez.”

Commander Joe Cortez was a good man with a big heart. He was a distinguished Merced resident, and he was my friend and mentor. I first met his daughter Regina in 1984, his wife Carol in 1986 and Joe in 1987. Regina and Carol are wonderful people whose support of Joe made him the towering figure he was in the community.

Joe recruited me to join the Merced Kiwanis Club in which he was a long serving member and volunteered, working at Kiddieland in Applegate Park, helping the youth of the community enjoy growing up here. Joe and I worked together on several community projects that helped some of our less fortunate residents. One particular incident for which he received special recognition was assisting an elderly crime victim in relocating to another residence when he was under threat by criminals in the community. He coordinated finding a new residence and organizing movers, including himself, for the relocation.

On a personal level Commander Cortez helped me with my career and professional development and was a rock when it came to helping with personal issues. He always had his door open and was a congenial leader who while he could be a disciplinarian was also willing to give one the benefit of the doubt and be forgiving.

Commander Cortez was an active member of the Merced Police Color Guard attending parades and special events throughout the County and always representing the city in a selfless and professional manner. I can think of no better tribute than to recognize his good works by naming the Merced Police South Station in his honor.

Sincerely,

Greig L. Best



Levesque, Jennifer

From: Michael Wang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2024 5:59 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Comment on the Purchase of a New Firefighting Truck

Dear Merced City Council Members,

I am commenting on Action Item 3, which involves the purchase of a fire truck. I hope the council and staff will consider purchasing a smaller vehicle. The size of the truck might not seem like it, but it has important implications on our city's road design in the future. In cities around the country, fire departments will sometimes protest bike lanes and road calming measures like lane narrowing, because their fire trucks can not get through. Buying smaller trucks solves this problem. Smaller trucks are more maneuverable and might be able to fit in larger bike lanes, which could decrease response times. If we keep our current size of fire trucks, we encourage dangerous roads where people speed. In short, smaller fire trucks enable smarter street design for the future. Here is a youtube video on the subject:

<https://youtu.be/j2dHFC31VtQ>

Sincerely,

Michael Wang

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