

Minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 S. 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager
 Danny Denogean, Public Safety Director and Chief of Police
 Imelda Robles, Interim Housing Director
 Jon Paladini, City Attorney

Councilors Present: Mayor Paul Diaz
 Vice Mayor Herman Lopez
 Acting Mayor Rita Rogers
 Councilor Anita Romero
 Councilor Cesar Aguirre (Not Present)
 Councilor Brian Flagg
 Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela

Mayor Diaz called the Regular Agenda Meeting of August 15, 2023, to order at 6:00 p.m. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgment and Mission Statements.

ITEM #03 – LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vice Mayor Lopez: On behalf of South Tucson residents, we honor the Tribal Nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe within South Tucson. Consistent with the City of South Tucson’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona’s Tribal Nations.

Acting Mayor Rogers: The Mission Statement of the City of South Tucson is to build up this community through mutual cooperation between we, your public servants, and you our citizens so that jointly we can build a safer and stronger City. Amen.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL (By City Manager Moreno):

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.
Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.
Councilor Romero. Here.
Mayor Diaz. Here.
Councilor Flagg. Here.
Councilor Aguirre. Mayor, Councilor Aguirre is not present.
Councilor Valenzuela. Here.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. We have a quorum.

ITEM #05 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Diaz: I would like to have a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023. Do I have a motion to accept?

Councilor Flagg: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: We have a Motion and a Second. Are there any corrections, deletions, additions to the Regular Meeting of August 1st?

Acting Mayor Rogers: No.

Mayor Diaz: Hearing none, Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Councilor Romero: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: The next one is the approval of the minutes for the Special Meeting of August 8th. Do I have a motion?

Vice Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Councilor Flagg: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Are there any additions, subtractions, corrections to the minutes? No? Hearing none, Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Councilor Romero: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Aye.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Aye.

Call to the Public

Mayor Diaz: So at this time it is a call to the public. Anybody in the audience that would like to address the Council? No cards?

Ms. Moreno: No cards.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you, there is apparently no cards presented.

ITEM #06 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I would like to report a couple of events. On August 14th I attended the meeting that I had scheduled with Tucson Electric Power. I met at their brand new office. And then on the 17th I have a meeting with U of A Water Campus at 7:00 in the morning. And then I also have a meeting with Pima College

Ideation Campus on the 24th, and then, last but not least, the League of Cities Conference is coming August 29th through September 1st. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Are there any more reports?

ITEM #07 - CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, I have only two reports. I sent an email to all of you yesterday but for purposes of the record, I am sure most of you have heard that Crossroads Restaurant had a fire this weekend, unfortunately. I want to thank the City of South Tucson Fire Department for being the first on the scene and I'm going to read my email so I don't forget any of the important information, for assisting us through our with mutual IGA for fire suppression with the City of Tucson. Firefighters on duty were Reserve Fire Capt. Michael Alfaro, Reserve Firefighter Abe Pedrego, Reserve Firefighter Ken Silverwind and Reserve Firefighter Damian Lay. For the City of Tucson, the Fire Chief on the scene upgraded the fire to a 3-alarm fire. The fire was that large. That included two ladder trucks, nine fire engines, three paramedic trucks, the engine Captains, 54 plus or minus, City of Tucson Fire personnel. There were no injuries sustained to Fire personnel or the public. One of our firefighters did have dehydration but he is fine now. The City of South Tucson Fire Department has indicated no details on the cause of the fire. I did contact the business owner who authorized assistance. Obviously she was really hurt about what happened and she thanked the City for being there and Fire Department and she said they plan to rebuild. There's been a lot of media, you know, they've been calling and reached out to them. There is a GoFundMe that they put out to raise money to be able to help, it would be helpful for them. So that's that. And also, I want to bring to your attention that the next item I want to bring up to the Council for consideration and direction is, the contract with the City Judge, City Magistrate, will be up this November so the two-year term is coming up here November 9th. I will have that on the agenda for the next upcoming meeting so Council can review and evaluate as they wish, and give Staff direction on what their wishes are. Nothing else to report.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Any questions?

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Do we have a recent evaluation of the Magistrate's performance?

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela. Evaluations are not in the contract of the Judge, per se, but Council does have the right to ask questions, to inquire to meet with the Judge and to get your perspective on how he has been doing. So we can actually set up a meeting on that discussion and have permission to have it done publicly to have that type of interview.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. Any more questions?

Councilor Flagg: That's Judge Madril, right?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, the name of the Judge is Judge Richard Madril.

Mayor Diaz: Any questions?

Ms. Moreno: I forgot, I just want to make sure to put it out, as we already announced, Betty Villegas, our former Housing Director, resigned and took a position at the State as a Representative. So since then, I am

happy to announce the appointment of Imelda Robles as the Interim Housing Director. You will see there are some items on the agenda that require Council action in light of the recent audit we received from HUD, so Imelda will lead the Housing Authority in the right direction, they are already in the right movement, so I again want to introduce Imelda Robles and congratulate her on this position.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: You're welcome.

Mayor Diaz: I will need a motion to adjourn the Regular Session and convene into South Tucson Housing Governing Board Meeting.

Vice Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Aye.

Commissioner Flagg. Aye.

Commissioner Aguirre is absent as well as Commissioner Adela Ochoa who is the Resident representative.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz: Thank you.

City Council adjourns from Regular Session and Convenes South Tucson Housing Governing Board Meeting, 6:11 p.m.

ITEM #03 - REPORTS

Ms. Robles: Good evening.

Commissioner Lopez: Good evening.

Ms. Robles: Thank you for having me and I am happy to be able to help out and continue with the fight of keeping the South Tucson Housing Authority above water and improving and continuing the great work that has been done throughout the years. As you all know, I am a career Houser, I have been in Housing for over 20 years under HUD's direction, or I should say, past monitoring and audits I have experienced twelve years of that wonderfulness, so I know that very well, especially with compliance. So with that said, thank you very much for having me.

ITEM #04 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-23 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, REVIEWING AND APPROVING THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (STHA) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN

Ms. Robles: Resolution No. 23-23 for the South Tucson Housing Authority, this one is for the Housing Governing Board requesting and approving the South Tucson Housing Authority's Limited English Proficiency Plan. The Limited English Proficiency Plan is a requirement under HUD, and it's now loaded under our most

recent ACOP and Admin Plan for public housing and Section 8. They just want us to make sure we are not discriminating against anyone based on their language, so because of the Census track from 2020 and the research that I have done, it still remains that the Spanish population is the highest we have in the City of South Tucson. The main translation documents we have available will be in Spanish. We also have cards now that if someone speaks a language other than Spanish or English, they could point out to it and we could make arrangements to have an interpreter come in. So as to the Executive Summary as indicated in HUD's mission to continued occupancy stand and Admin Code Chapter 2-38, Part 3, including access to services for persons with limited English proficiency. So the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan serves as our guide for providing services to LEP individuals in compliance with Title 5 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 13166, and Title 8 of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, amended in 1988. So our recommendation is for approval of this Resolution 23-23 for the South Tucson Housing Authority. Do you any questions?

Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have a question.

Chairman Diaz: Go ahead.

Commissioner Rogers: I just want to know, are you going to be having languages available for our Native Americans?

Ms. Robles: Yes. It's going to be listed, so at the end of the Limited English Proficiency Plan we have an "I speak and I read", it's just a document where they would point out the language.

Commissioner Rogers: My concern was that they are the people that give us fire trucks and police cars, etc., and I don't see them even in the Native.

Ms. Robles: I see that in our research, I know that was a big one. If there's something in there that we're missing,

Commissioner Rogers: It's a Tucson thing but not a South Tucson thing, that's how I read it.

Ms. Robles: I'll look at it and see what else, I was told there were like 53 languages in there. Any other questions about the LEP Plan?

Chairman Diaz: Anymore questions? No? I'll need a motion to approve Resolution 23-23 of the South Tucson Housing Authority.

Commissioner Rogers: So moved.

Commissioner Lopez: Second.

Chairman Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Aye.

Commissioner Flagg. Aye.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

Ms. Moreno: Motion passes.

Ms. Robles: Thank you.

ITEM #05 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-24 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REVISED CAPITAL FUND PROJECT (CFP) 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR 2022-2026 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD

Ms. Robles: Resolution No. 23-24 of the South Tucson Housing Authority is the 5-year Capital Fund Project Plan for 2022-2026 and it's a revision. This is a request for significant amendment and the Executive Summary states that due to the age of the South Tucson Housing Authority's public housing and the demands of repairs and maintenance, Staff is recommending the CFP 2022-2026 5-year action plan be amended to include a physical needs assessment and elevator upgrades. So this plan was already previously approved, I want to say in October 2022, but the only thing we are missing on it was the physical needs assessment and that physical needs assessment is basically an evaluation that is done by professionals that will come and look at our complex and just look at everything and give us notice of what exactly we need in our portfolio starting from the foundation all the way up. This is a requirement, actually not a requirement, it's a recommendation by HUD, especially for the modernization pieces of improving that we get this done so we can plan for the future, five and ten years and make sure we take care of our buildings and structures and health for the safety of our tenants. The second one that we have not noted was our elevator replacement, if there are actually repairs, but there are some parts that are so old that they are not even available anymore, so we are going to be able to have it function, but it is the recommendation of professionals that we really do need to replace. That is a safety issue for our tenants, so that's an important piece, that's why we needed to include it. Yes, Sir.

Commissioner Flagg: Do you have to hire an outside person to come in and do this thing?

Ms. Robles: Yes.

Commissioner Flagg: Is it a huge expense?

Ms. Robles: It's expensive. I know that they had tried doing this a couple years ago and originally was denied by HUD because of the price. The price was like over \$35,000, but from the training I received back in January on physical needs assessment, they do range between \$30,000 and \$45,000 or more, depending on the size of the Housing Authority.

Commissioner Flagg: And we have to do this now, right?

Ms. Robles: Unfortunately yes, in order for us to follow the process of our procurement policy under HUD, yes, it is required.

Commissioner Flagg: So does that mean we take it out of that contingency fund?

Ms. Robles: It comes as part of the future planning.

Chairman Diaz: From HUD.

Ms. Robles: From HUD.

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mayor, Commissioner Diaz, Councilor Flagg. All the funding on behalf of South Tucson Housing Authority does not affect our general fund. This is a totally separate fund which is through HUD, so

even paying employees, to operations, to maintenance, to building repairs, everything that is for the operation for Housing Authority comes through the federal government. It does not touch the City of South Tucson's general fund in any way. It's restricted money that the City can't touch, it's only dedicated for the Housing Authority.

Commissioner Flagg: But our Finance Director prepares that budget for Housing, right?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, because it's part of the City so she still has to oversee the budget in collaboration with the Director, and they have a separate audit outside of our audit because the feds will audit for the Housing Authority itself. So that was done recently once the budget was approved for the funding.

Commissioner Flagg: Ok.

Ms. Robles: Any other questions for this Resolution?

Chairman Diaz: Ok, if there are no more questions, I need a motion to approve Resolution 23-24 of the South Tucson Housing Authority.

Commissioner Flagg: Can I ask one more thing, please?

Chairman Diaz: Go ahead.

Commissioner Flagg: So all these pages, all this stuff, you know, if you do a 5-year plan, how can you predict for stuff two, three, four years from now like we have on here, because that doesn't seem practical. Is that something you have to do as some bureaucratic thing?

Ms. Robles: It is part of the requirement by HUD, and it's only estimates, because I find some of the prices, like oh my goodness, they are looking at prices that were before Covid, and we all know that everything has practically doubled in price since, but it's only an estimate, they reassured me that it is an estimate. A lot of the items often times are carried over from one year to the next.

Chairman Diaz: Ok.

Commissioner Rogers: Do we move on it yet?

Chairman Diaz: Moved and Seconded, yes. Roll Call.

Commissioner Rogers: I didn't hear anybody.

Ms. Moreno: Mr. Mayor, I don't believe there was a Motion or a Second.

Commissioner Lopez: So moved.

Commissioner Rogers: I Second, then you can have discussion.

Chairman Diaz: Ok.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Yes.

Commissioner Flagg. Yes.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Yes.

Ms. Robles: Thank you.

ITEM #06 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-25 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, REVIEWING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (STHA) REVISED UTILITY ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE LOW RENT AND SECTION 8 HOUSING PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE STHA DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD

Ms. Robles: This one is for Resolution No. 23-25 for the South Tucson Housing Authority and this one is a notice of proposed utility allowances. This is an annual public notice that goes out and is based on a chart that was actually prepared while Betty was here but the only reason we need to have your approval is because of the new ACOP, our public notice has changed from 30 to 45 days all the way up to 60. So we need to amend the dates for this one before we are able to proceed. Our original date was dated June 21st and our new updated date is August 10th for a proposed effective date of implementation of November 1st. Does anybody have any questions on our notice of proposed utility allowances?

Chairman Diaz: Hearing no questions.

Commissioner Flagg: Can I ask one, please?

Chairman Diaz: Go ahead.

Commissioner Flagg: I don't even understand what that means.

Ms. Robles: Well, every year we have to report, it's a review for utility allowances for our tenants, and that goes for our public housing tenants, as well as our Section 8 tenants. This notice we also inform our landlords of any utility allowance changes and because our, I don't have supplemental documentation, but we have a chart, the formula that is used in order to come up with our new numbers.

Commissioner Flagg: So it's HUD telling you and landlords you can't overcharge on utilities?

Ms. Robles: It's just a chart just based on what each tenant is allowed per month because we do provide, well, the federal government, does provide utility assistance and it is based on that chart on what amounts they are going to be providing for tenants.

Commissioner Flagg: But public housing, they pay their own TEP bills, right?

Ms. Robles: The majority of utilities are paid by the public housing authority and are paid directly to the utility companies.

Commissioner Flagg: How come people come to me with bills, then, and it's 1713 S. 3rd?

Ms. Robles: It depends on what type of bills they are, I'm not sure.

Commissioner Flagg: The electric, more than anything.

Ms. Robles: Electric bills? I would have to look at that to see exactly which ones we cover.

Commissioner Flagg: So do you think half the people have to pay TEP and the other half you're paying it?

Ms. Robles: It's both, yes. It depends also on income, it depends on what their rent is, and it goes off a percentage of what their rental amount is. It's all a formula. We have spreadsheets and we have all those charts already calculated, so it's just a matter of annually we just have to update with the new numbers to come up with the new allowances.

Chairman Diaz: That includes the 10% they just got?

Commissioner Flagg: Yeah. I wonder if there is any way we can, they don't overcharge us, right, more than they overcharge anybody else?

Ms. Robles: No, it's so regulated so it's really hard for anything to really fall between the cracks. It's really, really difficult, and sometimes if they can, but we have a lot of eyes on it, but it is an additional resource for our tenants, it does help them.

Commissioner Flagg: Ok.

Chairman Diaz: Ok, any more questions?

Ms. Robles: Any other questions?

Chairman Diaz: I'll need a motion for approval of Resolution 23-25 of the South Tucson Housing Authority.

Commissioner Lopez: So moved.

Commissioner Rogers: Second.

Chairman Diaz: Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Aye.

Commissioner Flagg. Yes.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

Ms. Robles: Thank you.

ITEM #07 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-26 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, REVIEWING, RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTIVE HOUSING DIRECTOR AS THE CITY MANAGER'S PROCUREMENT DESIGNEE

Ms. Robles: For our last Resolution, 23-26 for the South Tucson Housing Authority, the item request is a procurement designee. This is an approval we are requesting for a resolution that achieves what is required by HUD. This is for ratification of the designation's effective date. It insures the validity of all procurements, small and large, for this calendar year. This is part of our corrective action as requested by HUD that we have all of our procurement designees be named to mirror each other. So that is a very easy fix for us as it pertains to our corrective action.

Commissioner Flagg: I'd like to move that we pass that one.

Commissioner Lopez: Second.

Chairman Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded for approval of Resolution 23-26 of the South Tucson Housing Authority. Are there any questions? Discussion?

Commissioner Rogers: No.

Chairman Diaz: Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez: Yes.

Commissioner Rogers: Aye.

Commissioner Romero: Aye.

Commissioner Diaz: Aye.

Commissioner Flagg: Aye.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Aye.

Ms. Robles: Thank you. For our financials, we are scheduled to report on that on September 5th. Lourdes is not here today, so I have it on my calendar for financials for the September 5th meeting if that is ok with all of you.

Commissioner Rogers: Fine.

Chairman Diaz: Is it going to be a long one? Thank you. Is there anymore?

Ms. Robles: Just a real quick information and I will be reporting on this one at the next meeting also, is that we have right now 12 units that are scheduled to be completed and ready to be up by the 20th of August. So, Staff is working diligently to get these items taken care of, get them ready for ESOP. As you all know, our wait list is going to be closing on the 25th of August but we are going to be generating a new wait list so we can go ahead and fill up all of our vacancies. Once we are able to do all that, it's going to be really the answer to a lot of our issues going on. The issue was really the holding up of the wait list opening. Just a little quick announcement, also this Sunday at 7:00 a.m. we are going to have a public service announcement on the Spanish speaking station, La Caliente. We did this interview late last week and it was scheduled to be on last Sunday and this Sunday, but it didn't show up last Sunday. So it's going to be this Sunday for sure at 7 a.m., on 92.1, if anybody would care to listen in or let people know that it's available. We have a limited amount of Spanish speaking only people that have been applying these last couple of weeks, so we are going to really try to give a good push for our Spanish speakers and others that there's not too much marketing going on when it comes to big information like this that really benefits the people. So we are trying as much as we can, boots on the ground, hand delivering flyers. If you need any flyers, please let me know, send me an email and tell me how many you want and I will be more than happy to deliver, just to help us get the word out and have as many people apply as possible. Right now we have over 2,500 people that have applied since August 1st.

Commissioner Flagg: How many?

Ms. Robles: Over 2,500. So we are still pushing to get more done.

Commissioner Flagg: Do you feel overwhelmed by that?

Ms. Robles: It's overwhelming to where we are getting our voicemails flooded, and I'm getting an alert for each application that comes in it send me an email alert, so I have about 100 emails come every morning. I

mean, it's good, though, it's only temporary. After the 25th, we're going to be able to pull lottery. We also have Staff working on Saturdays from 9-1:00 to accommodate people who need help, to be able to offer them a computer that they can use, so we are doing what we can. We are doing our due diligence in trying to get the word out and helping people apply.

Commissioner Lopez: I have a question.

Ms. Robles: Yes.

Commissioner Lopez: How long does it take from the beginning to the time they move in, a month?

Ms. Robles: It depends. Like right now we have a few vacancies open and unfortunately, we're not like a regular property management that I wish we could just rent to anybody, but we have to run it through the process. They have to be already on the list, and we have to be able to take them from there. So right now we have three of our units, we have three openings right now that we have been working crazy the last two days to get these packets up to date. Now packets have to be updated by the new rules under ACOP, so we have to redo leases. The leases are going to be coming for approval the next two weeks, because we can't even do that until approved by you all and then by HUD. So it's a lot of work, but right now we are working with getting these next three in and then it's going to be a process of under two weeks because they are move-in ready. I've got some really good pictures. You all are invited to come in whenever you would like to see some of our vacant units that are going to be really nice.

Commissioner Lopez: Thank you.

Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I forgot to ask, what is the deadline of getting this into you, what's the deadline?

Ms. Robles: The 25th is the day we close.

Commissioner Rogers: Do you bring all the paper, I mean, what's happening, to the library?

Ms. Robles: We take the flyer. The flyer has our website and people can just go in there, and it's so easy, it takes them like five minutes; name, social security number, date of birth, address and the people in your family. It's very easy.

Ms. Moreno: If I may add, Commissioner Diaz, Imelda, I'm sorry. So a lot of the hard work that Imelda and everyone has been doing at the Housing Authority, has been working on, it is a lot of work, and I'm learning too. I'm learning that things like, I don't know about the Housing Authority because that's another Department, but a lot of findings that I read recently in the letter we received from HUD, on some of the areas they are addressing that they call deficient, well, the opening on the Section 8 waiting list is going to really address probably most of those findings. We are going to be meeting tomorrow with Imelda to go over a draft response because it is due back to HUD on September 1st. We need a plan and come November 1st, we should already have all of the deficiencies addressed, hopefully, that's the goal. So we are definitely making headway, it's going really good, despite what you have read. The Section 8 is going to relieve the Housing Authority of all those findings.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Good job.

Ms. Moreno: I'm very proud of it. We are on our way to a good place. Any other questions?

Commissioner Rogers: No. Thank you for all your work.

Ms. Robles: Thank you very much.

Chairman Diaz: Thank you.

Commissioner Lopez: Thank you, Imelda.

Chairman Diaz: Any other questions? Ok, I will need a motion to adjourn the South Tucson Housing Governing Board Meeting.

Commissioner Rogers: So moved.

Commissioner Lopez: Second.

Chairman Diaz: Moved and Seconded. Roll Call on the Adjournment.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Aye.

Commissioner Flagg. Aye.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

City Council exits South Tucson Housing Board Regular Meeting and Reconvenes into City Council Regular Session

Commissioner Valenzuela: If I may be excused, I need to get my daughter to my mom, five minutes. I'll be right back.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. Is she asking for a five-minute recess? We have a quorum so we can just move on.

Councilor Flagg: Unless there's some reason you think we should wait.

Mayor Diaz: We can move on. I'll need a motion, we adjourned the Regular Session of Housing, so I need a motion to convene as City Council into Regular Session.

Vice Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I don't think we voted coming out of the other one.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor Diaz, Acting Mayor Rogers, the last motion is the City Council to Convene. You already did the adjournment, and that automatically puts you into Regular Session mode. So you adjourned the meeting, we're good. So we are already in session.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. We are on Item #08.

ITEM #08 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-27 ACCEPTING AND ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION OF PUBLIC ART BY GALERIA MITOTERA IN COLLABORATION WITH PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REACH PROGRAM TO BE PLACED ALONG MAJOR CORRIDORS ON BANNER POLES WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor and Council, as outlined in the Executive Summary, Mayor Diaz asked that we accept and acknowledge a donation of public art from Galeria Mitotera, and we will go back to the presentation.

Mrs. Dominguez: Thank you, Mayor and Council. Good evening, Mayor and Council. Melissa and Mel, Galeria Mitotera, thank you all for taking time. So this project has been floating around for over a year now. We just didn't have the capacity to work on it last year, so we have some time now to refocus on it. So the idea is to create some beautiful pole banners for the post. Most of them are along South 4th and I'm not sure how many on South 6th, but the idea was to give this project to the City of South Tucson and have these banners printed with historical photos from South Tucson, City of South Tucson, and also some current photography with beautiful colors. Just something that is a reflection of the community, a reflection also to remind people of the beautiful history of our City and our cultures here, and what else, Mel?

Mr. Dominguez: We want to donate it because there's a couple projects that go around just what Melissa said, talking about the historical archiving so a lot of those workshops will be here at the library, close for everyone to attend, and they will be well notified. And also, because of the quarantine and walking through the projects and finding out which businesses are actually still open to the public, so that was another thing we were looking at along 4th, which businesses would actually get highlighted. So we're trying to wrap it up, too, because these places are getting burnt down.

Mrs. Dominguez: Really what we are wanting to do is three restaurants, so this is also in partnership with Pima County Reach, Pima County Health Department, so they have provided us funding for the printing and we would be printing them with Dwight at the Glue Factory which is local here in South Tucson. I brought an old banner that Dwight had purchased of Cesar Chavez.

Mr. Dominguez: You might be more familiar with it because it's what they wanted to call 6th Avenue for so long.

Mrs. Dominguez: So this would be the dimensions, it gives you an example of the dimensions. These are really a substantial size, so we hope it would be, I mean, we know that it is going to be a beautiful addition to the posts that are now, most of them are on top of (inaudible) like that terracotta red color, they painted them last year. So, we also wanted to, Mel talked about the restaurants and Pima County came up with the idea of us also highlighting them because a lot of folks don't realize how many places used to be here in South Tucson, the history of it, like the Bakery, like finding an old photo of that bakery and putting the years of establishment that they were here. And just highlighting just a lot of beautiful things.

Mr. Dominguez: I get to find out the hidden history, like there is a pool buried under one of the houses there.

Mrs. Dominguez: Does anybody have any questions that I could answer?

Vice Mayor Lopez: I do have a question.

Mrs. Dominguez: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lopez: How many poles are you putting them on?

Mrs. Dominguez: So we are planning for about 80 of them, which I am really excited that Pima County Reach is able to provide that much funding. They cost about \$80-\$90 a piece to be printed, plus the time of all the graphic design and stuff to get them done. They will all be the same. We may be printing similar imagery

because they are double sided, so we might alternate some of the imagery depending on how much archival information. We want to include any photography as well, and maybe some artwork from the youth.

Mr. Dominguez: We also have another project at the Garden Kitchen.

Mrs. Dominguez: So we are hoping to work on this in September and October, and then so as part of the Resolution is for the City of South Tucson, Angel's team would be the ones to hang them up. So that's what we would ask Council to approve on the Resolution. The City would be responsible for hanging them up, but we would take care of everything else. Any other questions?

Mayor Diaz: I have some questions, ok. But those of Cesar Chavez are going to be on 6th Avenue, is that right?

Mrs. Dominguez: No, these are just an example of the size, it has nothing to do with Cesar Chavez. I just brought those so you could see the dimensions of the banner. Most of the banners that we had talked about last year with previous Council was doing them on South 4th because that's where most of the flag poles exist around South Tucson. There aren't very many on South 6th, then there's sporadic ones. On South 4th, there's about, from 24th all the way down to the freeway, there's about 95 - 100 light posts altogether. So like I said, we have funding for about 85, which is significant and still be beautiful. Any other questions?

Mayor Diaz: Because there's another project from Project PPEP that will be doing the Cesar Chavez on 6th Avenue.

Mrs. Dominguez: Oh, ok.

Mayor Diaz: So that is on the works also.

Mrs. Dominguez: Yeah, our original idea was to keep it on South 4th because that's where there's a lot of the culture, not that there isn't on South 6th, but I know South 6th is also designated as Cesar Chavez, so we don't want to mix in with that, so keep it all on South 4th so it's cohesive.

Mayor Diaz: So, could you help me also with finding out Barrio Libres. Barrio Libre is in South Tucson, in other words, but the boundaries have been advertised wrongly and we need to reestablish that they are South Tucson, Barrio Libre.

Ms. Dominguez: Yeah, some people think it's closer to Barrio Viejo.

Mayor Diaz: No, it's here.

Ms. Dominguez: I know, but I said some people think that.

Mayor Diaz: And the other one is, that old park over there on 10th and I-10, I-19, I-10 thing, there's a little cul de sac there that belongs to South Tucson, and it needs something over there if you have the funds to do that.

Mrs. Dominguez: Right. At the moment, as I said, we really want to keep it all cohesive on South 4th with this project.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Mrs. Dominguez: If in the future we have funding for other projects, we can continue to place that work in other places. I know, just something we keep talking about, but like piecemealing them won't be as effective and not as visually impactful as having them all, because the impact when you're driving down South 4th and

you are just seeing all these beautiful banners and colors, it's beautiful. It would be nice to have it drifting down by the Yaqui Village but if we just put a couple there it might be very disconnected. So I don't know but we're open to discussion.

Mr. Dominguez: Because we have one half of the partnerships, or one third of the partnerships right now, so Pima Health is working with us because we are the host on board with an active business leadership on board, and we are establishing communications with people that they don't have the internet and things like that, so that's how this whole relationship was built. I'm still building my relationships on 10th, so I am working on those things, and so yes, a lot of it is relationship and communication. We need to have those two so that we can grow with them.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: I do have one last question.

Mrs. Dominguez: Sure.

Councilor Valenzuela: Is there going to be, I probably missed this, is there going to be community involvement in designing these banners?

Mrs. Dominguez: So this is another project which we want to start an archive of the City of South Tucson history and in collaboration with the Sam Lena librarians, but going off another topic, but it's very included in this because a lot of people always ask us if we know where there's an archive book, historical photos, or information about the City of South Tucson. They also ask the librarians a lot, and there is no archive. One does not exist. The librarians sent people off to the Historical Society. They have piecemeal of things, but not a real archive of South Tucson, so our second goal is to begin the archives. It would be a living archives and it would be hosted and stewarded by the librarians; they would be the owners of it, and it would be something that would be accessible to the public so they can go and reference. It wouldn't be something anybody could go and check out, but this is part of that. So we would be having workshops at the library, at Sam Lena, inviting community members to come.

Mr. Dominguez: We're having our youth help with the archives.

Mrs. Dominguez: Since there is no technology, I feel young, but sometimes technology is hard for me, too, but the youth would be helping community members if they need to scan down photographs and things like that, or if they maybe want to take a video, have a video taken of them telling a story about their life here in the City of South Tucson. The youth would help us archive that and then we will ask the community members if they would like to donate a copy, they would donate it to the Sam Lena Library. And then we will continue. So, those photographs are what we would be using for this project.

Councilor Valenzuela: Last thing, I promise. I went to the Ochoa 100-year anniversary and there was a teacher who made this really cool timeline. You should connect with her because she already did a lot.

Mrs. Dominguez: We are connecting with them and with Ms. Luz at Mission View as well, because they have lots of photos as well, so it will be a really great start. We really want community participation in it. I know we are hoping we can get it done and accomplished by mid-October, but it is something we can continue to work on.

Mr. Dominguez: And I was just at the Youth Center and there's a few of them that are coming back because they understand the projects that we have coming forward, so everything is within walking distance, they are used to the leadership here, so we are starting to rev back up.

Mrs. Dominguez: Any other questions?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I just want to give you a notice about something that might help you. This is like 1601 S. 6th Avenue and the next hotel is 1701. I got a letter from my dear friends at Woman Warriors, and they are at 1801. If you need any help, they have so many women that can help you with this project. They want to know what to do around here. They are at 1801.

Mrs. Dominguez: I've seen them.

Acting Mayor Rogers: You see the plaques in the window? No problem, maybe you guys, not me, to tell them.

Mrs. Dominguez: Great, thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: They're all Veterans. They are so helpful and so close to everything.

Mrs. Dominguez: I think we've exceeded our time, sorry. Anything else?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Let me apologize, when I was reading the Resolution here, I was reading it in English rather than translating to Spanish.

Mrs. Dominguez: No worries.

Mayor Diaz: That's why I was off. Thank you. I need a motion.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we approve Resolution #23-27, accepting and acknowledging a donation of public art by Galeria Mitotera in collaboration with Pima County Health Department Reach Program to be placed along major corridors on banner poles within City limits.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: There's a Motion and a Second, is there any more discussion? Hearing none, Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Commissioner Romero. Aye.

Commissioner Diaz. Aye.

Commissioner Flagg. Aye.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Next is Item #09.

ITEM #09 - DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION, RENAMING/REBRANDING SOUTH TUCSON

Mayor Diaz: I brought that up in respect to the meeting we had with PAG, Pima Association of Government, which includes Marana, Sahuarita, Oro Valley. City of Tucson was not there, but myself, so we did meet in

respect to some of the problems that South Tucson is facing, especially with everything that is happening in the City of Tucson that is called South Tucson, and we had a big discussion on it. So what came out of that is the fact that everybody loves South Tucson and our governmental neighbors have agreed that they are willing to help, all of them, 100% in any way that they can. What happened is that, like I said, we gave them some examples of what was happening, City Planner was there, was very instrumental, too, with respect to some of the problems that we have here in South Tucson. Also, the City Manager here had a lot of input in that. So what really is happening, and certain things like Galeria Mitotera have envisioned for South Tucson, so it's time we turn South Tucson around and really, it's not because of the pandemic or anything else, but I feel it is time to change the visions of what everybody has of South Tucson. We said, ok, what are we going to need? One of them came out and said "renaming". And we said, ok, what would you like to rename South Tucson? And nobody gave us any suggestions at that time, but the rebranding is something that could happen. I have explored some options already in regard to with who would be able to help, especially with getting the whole community involved with this. Even Pima County is saying that they will lend us anything we want, no cost, and they will even use the mobile communication vehicle that they have to help us out with rebranding, but of course, we would need the whole community involved in this because if there is no buy-in from the community, of course, it won't happen. And most of the projects that have been started from the past have died because of that, there was no buy-in from the community. It was just top down, do this, do that, there was never an agreement with the community whether they were residents or long-term residents, or even the new renters, what they would want to see happen in South Tucson. So I feel this cooperation with everybody here, we can be successful in rebranding, at least, South Tucson. So what will happen is that, as far as what I have envisioned, is the fact that we will have a lot of publicity on it, and again, there's even door-to-door campaigning from different organizations that are willing to help. And again, it's the door-to-door communication that needs to be successful because of the fact that this rebranding, if it does happen, and that is my hope, that rebranding of South Tucson will really attract other businesses, other families, to move in, low-income families, instead of the gentrification we have now. So it's a long-term project. I hope that it is a direction that you would also like to see, that South Tucson becomes an attraction, not just for businesses but also for residents and people who come from other parts of the City. So, again it's going to be, a needs assessment will start off shortly if everybody, you know, if we have consensus, at least the rebranding, which would probably include, we'll ask the question if anybody would like to rename South Tucson, what would they like it to be named as, another name for South Tucson. Do you have any comments in regard to our meeting?

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Mayor Diaz for asking me. Mayor Diaz invited me and the City Planning Director to attend the meeting with PAG and officials from other jurisdictions. I believe representatives from Oro Valley, Marana and Sahuarita were there. I think it was the Mayor from Sahuarita, the Mayor from Marana or representatives, Oro Valley were there and PAG representatives. I really did not know at the time what the meeting was about, to be quite honest. But the Mayor gave an outline of what the community was, so the Mayor wanted to strategize with the other jurisdictions on City issues, some of our challenges, especially with regard to our image and how it could recommend ways to help the City move forward. The conversation was basically around that, how could the City address the image issue. The suggestions made reminded me that the consensus among most of us was that this should be a community driven type of issue, the community supports changing the name of South Tucson, or having some sort of slogan, if you will, to ask the City what would be a type of what Mayor is asking to do, to put the City in a direction where we do away with the old and probably something new, and I don't know if the Council is prepared to even digest something like that at

this time, and it's your decision, for your direction Staff can tend to attempt with our limitations and our priorities, too. There's an (inaudible) around the community right now, so I don't know, but then, you are the Council, you represent the community, your further action is to rebrand the City, rename the City right now, something the Mayor has already reached out to other jurisdictions as well.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: City Manager, I just want to try to understand this. So there was a meeting, and it was talked about many issues that the City is facing. And the consensus was to have a rebranding. Was there any talk about helping the Fire Department or Public Safety? Was there any talk about helping the City in other ways than rebranding, or was that just the conclusion?

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela, I think that was mainly the focal point was to address our image issue. There was no conversation with regard to Fire Department or any of our other challenges. I think it was just something general, talk about the City and what we've gone through and the challenges the City has faced over the years, and a lot of it, you know, being the image because in like in media it gives you like, criminal issues, people automatically think of South Tucson. To basically identify the City of South Tucson outside of what is known as South Tucson, (inaudible) what we know about borders. I think it is just identify who we are outside of what people perceive us to be. A lot of people don't even know South Tucson exists. A lot of people who have lived here a lifetime don't that we are a City alone. So how do we market that and showcase who we are.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, and to add to that, with a needs assessment we are going to get a lot of help if we decide to go this route. The needs assessment will address, I believe it will address, things like Public Safety and everything associated with that, because the residents here know more or less what's happening, but sometimes they don't want to express it or don't have the means to communicate it. The needs assessment will go house to house, I'm sure of that, and we will get the actual what's needed, because the surveys that have been done before have limited information on them in regards to what people are really saying. They ask for parks, they ask for a lot of things, and some of that can be accomplished but the fact is that, we're told they want a city park, for example, and we provide a city park some place, and the community doesn't accept that so well. The doors are closed all the time and so forth. But the needs assessment will indicate, hey, if you are going to do that, you are going to ask for money to do that, let's do it right, let's do something that's going to really affect the community.

Councilor Valenzuela: One more. Is this like what NRSA did when we were applying for NRSA and there was a whole community engagement where, something similar about a year ago, we were on the Council that participated, so it sounds very similar, and I getting that correctly?

Mayor Diaz: And it's kind of like putting it together now, coming to where we can put it together because, as we mentioned, that everybody wants to help South Tucson. We have the resources now to do this, in other words.

Councilor Valenzuela: I have a question for Jon. Have you ever heard or been a part of any other city that does something similar to this?

City Attorney Paladini: Renaming?

Councilor Valenzuela: Rebranding and renaming.

City Attorney Paladini: Branding or rebranding is very common.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

City Attorney Paladini: It really just depends on if there was branding in the past or if it needs to be rebranded or if there's been certain no branding, just been certain organic. Sahuarita rebranded or branded a few years ago, down to things like stationery, logos, business cards, everything is very uniform. Payson just rebranded recently, something about mountains, Arizona's Cool Mountain Town, or something like that. So that is relatively new. They're basically promoting things to bring tourism to the city or the town. Prescott has two or three brands, you know, Everybody's Hometown, World's Oldest Rodeo, Arizona's Christmas City, so cities will brand all the time. As far as renaming goes, the only city that has renamed itself is the City of Phoenix. It was called Whiteville, or something like that. I guess some guy Whitey lived there or something. There's a list you can google that lists all the different places in the U.S. that the cities have changed their name for one reason or another. Honestly, I don't even know if there's, there really isn't a statutory process to do it. I'm going to assume the City Council can choose to rename, change the name of the City. I think it's a long process and I also think it needs to be coordinated with social service and a lot of other things. I don't know if there's U.S. Geographic for map purposes, street addresses, those kinds of things if you are going to rename. Because even renaming what used to be called Squaw Peak to Piestewa Peak, took a lot of federal government acknowledgment. So I would say it's doable. You would probably do it by ordinance, but I would also suggest it definitely needs coordination.

Councilor Valenzuela: Is it generally costly?

City Attorney Paladini: I don't think so, but globally it might be because people have to change their websites from, you know, from the South Tucson name on things that are relatively inexpensive. Probably less expensive now than it used to be when you had to change all your stationery and paper; nobody uses that anymore, hardly. I don't think, as far as people's mailing and addresses, I assume the Post Office, it's still in the same zip code, so it probably shouldn't be a problem with mailing and things like that. I don't know beyond, I would say that what would be your most costly and time consuming would be your public outreach, you know, to make sure you get buy-in and public input from the residents. None of that has to be costly; that can be done sort of at Staff level, maybe with some help from the outside.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: Hey, Mayor, I hate to be contrary, but I really do, no lie, but you know, I live here, and I think we all generally live here because we have this rich culture and it's a beautiful place, and I think most people have pride to live here. And who the hell is like, who is Oro Valley and Marana to tell us that we need to be rebranded because we're like crime ridden, or don't live up to their expectations. So to be honest, I'm a little insulted by those entities like looking down on us. Maybe they should rebrand themselves. I would have some critique on them if they really wanted it. So I think anything to be creative and move us forward is good, but on this one I think we've got really important issues to deal with in South Tucson which we all pretty much know that exist, and so like we need to do that, you know, engaging the community stuff that we have been talking about this evening to tackle these other problems. And the only other thing is I think would make us look bad in the whole community and if people didn't read it, Blake Morlock talked about it in the Tucson Sentinel, I think it was yesterday's version, and he said, hey, man, even if you renamed the City of South

Tucson, you will still have all the same problems. And he kind of like belittled the whole thing and I think public relations wise it would be not a positive, it would tend to be negative.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, any more comments?

Vice Mayor Lopez: I've got a question for you. So we just want change the name?

Mayor Diaz: No, no, let me restate it that we would go out to see if the community would like the name changed, not to go out there and

Vice Mayor Lopez: If you're going to go on it, you've got to give them some suggestions as to the names you want to name our City, because if you don't, then you're going to have multiple names addressed, and then you are going to have to go through the voting process and eliminating which one is going to be selected for us in renaming our City.

Mayor Diaz: That would encourage public input, that would be a part of that, yes. But again, we could suggest and also bring in the fact that, hey, if you don't have these, how about, what do you think, you know. It all needs to be part of the needs assessment thing anyway, where you would ask the person all these questions that, would you like to see an example of what the name could be or what the seal could be, and all this other stuff, and you know, it would work that way because that's what public input, or what we are asking for in these needs assessment. I hear you, Brian, that the people might have that feeling in mind that South Tucson is characterized by crime and everything else, but how else can we prove to them that that's not the case. If we take on rebranding and say we change our logo, change little things here and there, or even if we keep it, just as long as the streets are clean, the Fire, Police, everything else is up to par, why not. I mean, it's still rebranding, it just hey, we're letting you know our streets are clean, our crime is down, etc., it's the whole part of the process. It doesn't stop at just a particular area of what we call rebranding, it doesn't stop there, it keeps on going.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I feel like we agree with Brian's comments which is needing to take care of the City first, all of our issues we have pending before we move on to something new. And I think by what just happened this weekend with the fire we had, we need to address these serious issues, you know, because it's going to have an impact, good or bad, but either way, I don't feel by changing our name or rebranding is going to make this community turn around overnight and say, oh yeah, this is a brand new community. We still have the same problems, we still have the same thing from day in and day out and until we approve Public Safety personnel, increase the volume of officers and Fire Department, then from there we should move on and say, ok, now we can rebrand it, because now we can take care of our citizens. That is our priority.

Councilor Flagg: Can I say one more thing? You know, the thing about Crossroads burning down, like that was a big deal in the community, you know, it was front page of the paper, so it's one more sign that the larger community looks at something like Crossroads and is grieved by it because it's this cultural thing and it's important to South Tucson for revenue and stuff like that, but it's important to a bigger part of Tucson and I think people look at that and understand that there's this rich culture here and mourn a loss of that part of it. So, I think South Tucson's a great place. I don't want to move, I love it, and let's make it better. And we don't have to rebrand it, I don't think, that's my opinion.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I do agree that maybe in the near future once we get it all squared away, that's something we can look into it and work at it as we continue progressing within our City. It is not a lost cause,

but the point is always that it may come back and bite us, because they're saying, well, if they aren't taking care of certain issues, that it was important to change our name, that was far more important than safety. We've got to weigh it all out.

Mayor Diaz: But I think your comments are well taken, Vice Mayor, but don't forget during the budget process all these issues were addressed during the process. We made allotments for Police, we made allotments for Fire, we made allotments for all these issues in the budget, and that's where it has to be addressed at, in the budget. It doesn't have to be a physical person doing something, it's in the budget. And these areas have been covered and they are going to be addressed, and you know, it's already there. You have until next year when you work on the budget again.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Maybe perhaps if you would have brought this issue of rebranding to the Council first before you went above and sought input from everybody else, maybe we could have decided that upon ourselves.

Mayor Diaz: Then why don't you bring something up to the Council that's going to be effective for the City? You stand back and you always criticize what has been addressed before and you always put it down. Now bring something up that will help the City, I dare you.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor, let's keep it respectful, please, please.

Mayor Diaz: I apologize.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, can I speak one thing about it? I am constantly voting no for the things I believe would help our City. I've been 33 years on 4th Avenue and the buildings have been empty for 33 years. I think as we keep raising the taxes for the people, so if you get coffee for \$1.07, in South Tucson, it \$1.12. We have our seniors two and a half cents on the dollar for their food, groceries, etc., and constantly, the town name isn't the problem. I called the League of Cities and Towns, we were #95 in terms of taxes when it comes to McDonalds and all that stuff, at least that's what they gave me for the City of South Tucson. I think that we have not, I could just count in 1.2 miles how many things are empty and for how many years. Just unbelievable. And there are people asking me, are you telling me about another building that's in South Tucson? I don't know, because I don't know. But we're known, we are very, very known as the highest, and definitely known about the fentanyl, big time. You've got to watch the show to find out we are number one for fentanyl. That's my understanding, it's not about South Tucson, but it is about South Tucson really because they talk about South Tucson, and I hear, are you really in South Tucson? And I say yes, since 1992. I think this has got to stop. I feel like it's a wonderful City.

Mayor Diaz: Councilor Anita would like to share some thoughts.

Councilor Romero: I grew up in South Tucson, the same street, the same house. I love it and I've never had problems. Even the streets were all dirt, and my brothers would play baseball in the streets until my dad and mom said, you're breaking windows in the corner houses. So they had to make a team to take them to a city recreation, and my dad would take two trips at a time, and we were the third ones for us to go back to Oury Park and this started right in front of the house with no pavement, no nothing, but the problem was breaking windows in the corner. But my life has been here, and I've never had problems here in my house. My parents passed away and I stayed in the same house. My brother passed away. He worked for the City of South Tucson, passed away last year. And we always, I enjoyed South Tucson and South Tucson has been mine since

elementary. We think Park and 37th Street, Butkus House, and I stayed there. They passed away, everybody, the ones that got married, and my parents, all they did for South Tucson. They got all the kids together and played baseball in the streets, so they started to take them to Oury Park to play over there. And you should see the trophies they have, I still have them. There's a lot of trophies in about half of the living room. And so I really enjoy South Tucson and this is where I grew up. I went to Ochoa Mission View and Pueblo and then I went to business college, but the only reason I didn't finish there, because my mom was working for the owner and not getting paid. When I found out that, I said, mom, I don't want to finish, I don't want to go back. And she said, it's up to you.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you, Anita, for sharing.

Councilor Romero: This is my City where I grew up and I enjoy it and I have never had problems right there, but now my brothers got married and left, but they still come there for holidays for whatever we have there.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Councilor Valenzuela: If I may, just one last comment. I agree with you, Mayor Diaz that there's a lot of work that needs to be done and I think the best way in my experience is to go and door-knock. So I just want to invite all my colleagues to go out and check in with the residents and you'll learn a lot, and we will have a better idea of what direction. But right now, I agree with Vice Mayor Lopez that all of our energy, all of the Staff's time, needs to be put on getting that Fire Department and Police Department working at optimal levels. We can't pull them out from doing anything else until we secure that first. So that's just my last comment.

Mayor Diaz: Well, just to clarify some of that is the fact that we have quite a few resources available to us to help develop some of that, where the majority of that would have been at no cost. But anyway, not reaching a conclusion, I recess this issue.

Ms. Moreno: May I say something real quick? You all know that I was born and raised here. My aunt, my uncle was part of the Police Commissioner way back in the 50's. At that time the City Council asked the community at large to come up with a logo. People came up with all these logos and we presented it to the Council, and my aunt had the first printing logo of South Tucson which is the logo we have here. So that's just a little bit of my history, too, you know, my heart is near and dear to South Tucson, and everybody knows somebody in South Tucson, and it goes hand in hand with our City, that's our slogan. But what concerns us here, what I heard, Mayor, is that nobody has supported your idea, everybody supports the idea of some sort of rebranding, I don't know about the name change, but I think the time would be later once these challenges with Fire and Police have been addressed. I literally got the chills right now when I heard Councilor Valenzuela mention the Fire Department, because, you know, I have witnessed this kind of crumble in front of my eyes and it's got me to see it every single way when driving to work, and talking to the Chief every day about what happened the night before. Do we have coverage today, are we going to have coverage next month. So I agree with addressing our priorities and making sure that Public Safety is number one and we are on our way. I know that now three of you here are newly elected and you guys inherited this issue, but I want you to know that if you can have confidence in me to move the Fire Department and Police Department in the right direction, you guys already saw it. We had meetings, we're not the lowest paid anymore but we're close to it. But, you know, you all are doing a tremendous job and thank you for what you have done for the Staff, they have all come out thanking you for what you have done for them. That's just my two cents worth.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I have just one last comment. Between the Attorney and the City Manager and myself, we are planning to have a retreat, a Council retreat, in which I would like to achieve is one thing, to know what everyone wants to do while their tenure here on the Council, you know, so that we can learn to adjust our schedules and our ideas to where we can move the City forward instead of us moving it back once we know, and we can probably agree to go forward or disagree not to move forward. But the point is, at least we know where we all stand and right now, we don't even know what each one of us is doing. I just think it's time to get it together as a Council and to move forward and the branding of the City can wait another 40 years as far as I am concerned. I've got far more important issues to worry about. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Diaz: Like I mentioned before, there is nothing further to it, therefore, I recessed the discussion.

ITEM #08 - ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Diaz: So I need a motion to adjourn.

Acting Mayor Rogers: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. All in favor, say Aye.

Council Members: Unanimous Ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 15th day of August, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk