AGENDA

Garden Grove City Council

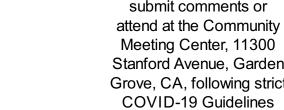
Tuesday, December 22, 2020

12:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a Special Telephonic Meeting of the City Council - Public can submit comments or attend at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA, following strict **COVID-19 Guidelines**

Mayor Kim B. Nguyen Mayor Pro Tem - District 6 George S. Brietigam Council Member - District 1 John R. O'Neill Council Member - District 2 Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen Council Member - District 3 **Patrick Phat Bui** Council Member - District 4 Stephanie Klopfenstein Council Member - District 5

Steven R. Jones



GARDEN GROVE

Meeting Assistance: Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services, due to a disability, to address the City Council, should contact the City Clerk's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for accommodations. Phone: (714) 741-5040.

Agenda Item Descriptions: Are intended to give a brief, general description of the item. The City Council may take legislative action deemed appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

Documents/Writings: Any revised or additional documents/writings related to an item on the agenda distributed to all or a majority of the Council Members within 72 hours of a meeting, are made available for public inspection at the same time (1) in the City Clerk's Office at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840, during normal business hours; (2) on the City's website as an attachment to the City Council meeting agenda; and (3) at the Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Public Comments: Members of the public desiring to address the City Council are requested to complete a pink speaker card indicating their name and address, and identifying the subject matter they wish to address. This card should be given to the City Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. General comments are made during "Oral Communications" and should be limited to matters under consideration and/or what the City Council has jurisdiction over. Persons wishing to address the City Council regarding a Public Hearing matter will be called to the podium at the time the matter is being considered.

Manner of Addressing the City Council: After being called by the Mayor, you may approach the podium, it is requested that you state your name for the record, and proceed to address the City Council. All remarks and questions should be addressed to the City Council as a whole and not to individual Council Members or staff members. Any person making impertinent, slanderous, or profane remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the City Council shall be called to order by the Mayor. If such conduct continues, the Mayor may order the person barred from addressing the City Council any further during that meeting.

<u>Time Limitation</u>: When any group of persons wishes to address the City Council on the same subject matter, the Mayor may request a spokesperson be chosen to represent the group, so as to avoid unnecessary repetition. At the City Council's discretion, a limit on the total amount of time for public comments during Oral Communications and/or a further limit on the time allotted to each speaker during Oral Communications may be set.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBER BRIETIGAM, COUNCIL MEMBER O'NEILL, COUNCIL MEMBER D. NGUYEN, COUNCIL MEMBER BUI, COUNCIL MEMBER KLOPFENSTEIN, MAYOR PRO TEM K. NGUYEN, MAYOR JONES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- 1. <u>ORAL COMMUNICATIONS</u> (to be held simultaneously with other <u>legislative bodies</u>)
 - 1.a. (No other legislative bodies are being conducted public comments are limited to agenda item listed.)

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.a. Authorization to join an amicus brief supporting Sheriff Don Barnes' challenge of a Court Order requiring the release of 50% of jail inmate population due to COVID-19. (*Action Item*)

3. ADJOURNMENT

Said Special Meeting has been called to discuss the matter listed on the Agenda.

Dated: December 21, 2020

Steven R. Jones, Mayor

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California.

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Scott C. Stiles From: Omar Sandoval

Dept.: City Manager Dept.: City Attorney

Subject: Authorization to join an Date: 12/22/2020

amicus brief supporting Sheriff Don Barnes'

challenge of a Court Order requiring the release of 50% of jail inmate population due to COVID-19. (*Action Item*)

OBJECTIVE

To obtain Council authorization for the City to join an amicus brief supporting Sheriff Don Barnes' challenge to an order requiring the release of approximately 1,800 inmates from Orange County Jails.

BACKGROUND

On December 11, 2020, the Orange County Superior Court ordered Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes to release approximately 1,800 inmates from Orange County jails due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19. The City Council is asked to authorize participation in an Amicus Brief in support of Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes' challenge to this order.

DISCUSSION

In June 2020, the American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of Orange County inmates, filed a lawsuit alleging that inmates should be released because they are medically vulnerable and at imminent risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. After considering the arguments on December 11, 2020, the judge in the case ordered Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes to reduce the Orange County jail inmate population by fifty percent. Under the Court Order, Sheriff Barnes has until December 30, 2020 to provide a list of names of inmates he intends to release.

If forced to comply with the Court Order, Sheriff Barnes will need to release approximately 1,800 inmates, which the Sheriff and Orange County District Attorney have stated unequivocally poses a significant risk to public safety. According to the City of Newport Beach's staff report on the item, Sheriff Barnes identified that of the

700 inmates considered medically vulnerable under the Center of Disease Control and Prevention's Guidelines, 59 inmates are incarcerated for murder, 39 inmates for attempted murder and 90 for child molestation.

This Court Order is especially concerning given that there have already been significant impacts on public safety related to the release of prisoners by the County of Orange and State of California related to COVID-19. For instance, since the pandemic began, the County of Orange has released thousands of inmates and the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has released over 22,000 inmates.

The release of so many prisoners in such a short timeframe is straining state and local law enforcement who are not only addressing traditional law enforcement issues but responding to law enforcement issues associated with COVID-19. Furthermore, the Court Order does not sufficiently contemplate the risk to the health, safety and welfare of Orange County residents created by the wholesale release of inmates, and the Court Order does not account for the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine.

On December 18, 2020, the City of Newport Beach authorized their City Attorney to file an amicus brief in support of the Sheriff. Since that time, other Orange County cities have joined, or scheduled Special Meetings to consider joining the effort.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Overall expenses related to participation are not expected to exceed \$5,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

 Authorize the City Attorney to join in an amicus brief filed by the City of Newport Beach supporting Sheriff Don Barnes' challenge to the Court Order requiring the release of 50% of the inmate population from Orange County jails.