

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 PM

Join by computer or smartphone; follow the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86015604790>

Or join by phone at (669)900-9128

Senator Ben Allen will be our guest speaker at our virtual meeting. Please tune in for the latest update from our State Legislature and how California is handling the COVID-19 crisis.

Here are some ways you can help Democrats in 2020

Get a bird's-eye view of what is going on near you at SoCalBlue
<https://socalblue.org/>

Two virtual offices with regular volunteer opportunities:
<https://grassrootsdems.org>
<https://westsidedemhq.org>

Two local groups that serve our area:
<https://indivisiblesouthbay.com/>
<https://www.generationbluepf.com>

Help Democrats win in swing states:
<https://sisterdistrict.com>

Help us register more voters:
<https://www.fieldteam6.org>

Help send text messages to voters in important races:
<https://www.openprogress.com>

If you can't find the time to volunteer, please consider donating to one of the above organizations. Or, if you would like us to notify you when volunteers are needed, please sign up here:
<https://forms.gle/DgiRZ9RcvZdM9Ku9>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Michael Deto
President,
Beach Cities*



"Justice is blind for a reason, "not supposed to be peeking out to see whether or not your patron is pleased." – James Comey

In the 1970s, after a series of scandals in Federal programs and several Congressional hearings exposed fraud and waste in executive agencies, Congress crafted the Inspector General Act. President Jimmy Carter signed the new law in 1978, which established 12 independent Inspector Generals within Federal agencies to conduct agency oversight and promote program integrity. Over 40 years later, the IG community remains a robust tool in the fight against government fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Today, there are 74 Federal Inspector Generals, and there are over 10,000 IG employees working to oversee Federal programs and operations across the country.

Presidents from both parties have received criticism from Congress for removing IGs without proper notification or explanation. President Reagan fired all of the IGs when he took office. President Obama removed Gerald Walpin in 2009 after he opened an investigation into Americorps and faced bipartisan backlash. But in a span of six weeks, Trump has removed five officials from posts leading their respective agencies and Inspector General offices, and there has only been muffled criticism from Republicans.

Michael Atkinson served as the IG of the intelligence community since 2018. Mr. Atkinson handled the complaint filed

by the whistleblower that raised concerns about Trump's dealings with Ukraine. The complaint ultimately led to House Democrats' impeachment inquiry into the President. Trump removed Atkinson in April.

Mitch Behm had been serving as the acting IG at the Department of Transportation since February. House Democrats are claiming that removing Behm hampers the progress of an investigation into Secretary Elaine Chao's possible conflicts of interest. There are reports that her agency may have given preferential treatment to Kentucky, represented in the Senate by her husband Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Glenn Fine had been serving as the acting IG at the Defense Department and was selected to head the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC). The PRAC is tasked with overseeing implementation of the \$2.4 trillion coronavirus relief packages passed by Congress. Trump then nominated White House attorney Brian Miller to oversee the PRAC.

Christi Grimm has worked at the Health and Human Services Office of IG since 1999, serving as the acting IG since January. Grimm released a report that outlined severe shortages of testing supplies, PPE, staffing levels and difficulties in expanding hospital capacity. Trump announced his intent to nominate a new IG for HHS, weeks after the report was published.

Steve Linick has been the State Department IG since 2013 and was removed from his position after he opened an investigation into Secretary of State Pompeo. Linick was investigating the administration's emergency order to sell \$8 billion in arms sales in the Middle

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

East and Pompeo's use of a department staffer to run his personal errands like walking his dog.

Trump has instituted a New York mob-style of governing by trying to silence critics and anyone who investigates his administration. The firing of career public servants, whose job is to identify fraud and abuse, is inexcusable. The lack of criticism and outrage from Republicans over the past few weeks shows the importance of the November election.

Each one of us needs to grow enthusiasm for the November election, help mobilize voters, and restore accountability in Washington.

Manhattan Beach City Councilmember Hildy Stern, Supervisor Janice Hahn



Recap

President Mike Detoy opened the meeting with a pledge of allegiance to the flag, which displayed on the screen. We then heard from our first speaker, Hermosa Beach Mayor Mary Campbell, who talked about the current state of the city during the pandemic. All three beach cities, and El Segundo, are working together to manage the problem.

Tony Hale asked under what conditions we would open the beaches. First, we need to make sure our hospitals are able to meet whatever emergencies occur. We also need to have sufficient testing capacity. We are still under stay-at-home orders; when Newport Beach opened up, people did not observe social distancing.

Then Manhattan Beach Councilmember Hildy Stern spoke up. She said the Farmer's Market would be open on May 17, and some of the parks would be open in a few days.

Many people attended Supervisor Janice Hahn's virtual town hall meeting, at which she said that if people went back to the way things were last week, it would put first responders at risk.

Then Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand joined the discussion.

He thanked our club for remaining active during the pandemic. He talked about PPE (personal protective equipment) and said he supports a phased approach to opening public spaces. LA County has seen 22 thousand cases and 1,056 deaths so far. The city's budget has a \$10 million shortfall. Bill is also active in the movement to keep the AES power plant from staying open for three more years. Craig Cadwallader, of Surf Rider Foundation, asked Bill about Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi's bill, AB 2071. This bill would make it illegal to operate a power plant on wetlands. Stacey Golden wants to write a letter to the Water Board opposing extension of the power plant. Dency mentioned that Al Muratsuchi would be holding a virtual town hall meeting, at which Congressman Ted Lieu would appear.

Jessica Accamando mentioned that they have plenty of volunteers. She is working with volunteers to help with COVID-19 issues.

(See volunteer opportunities on page 1.)

Treasurer's Report

Federal PAC	\$1,765
State PAC	\$5,062

Please note: Attached are the Minutes of the April meeting as recorded by our Secretary and which will be formally adopted at our next virtual meeting. If you have any corrections or changes, please address them in an email to info@BeachCitiesDems.org or bring them up at our next meeting.

Ted Lieu and Al Muratsuchi Town Hall Meeting April 30

Congressman Ted Lieu spoke about two bills that he supports:

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (CARES)

This bill responds to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak by providing paid sick leave, tax credits, and free COVID-19 testing; expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits; and increasing Medicaid funding. It also provides FY2020 supplemental appropriations for federal agencies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The supplemental appropriations are designated as emergency spending, which is exempt from discretionary spending limits.

Congressman Lieu announced his cosponsorship of the *Coronavirus Community Relief Act*, which will provide smaller communities and cities in the United States with direct access to resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill, which was introduced by Congressman Joe Neguse (D-CO), will provide \$250 billion in stabilization funds for local communities.

"The act would provide important direct support for smaller towns and cities, including many in my district," Rep. Ted Lieu said. "The *CARES Act* provided nearly \$340 billion to states, and the states would then distribute funds to cities. For cities with a population of over 500,000, they could get direct access to the federal funds instead of requesting the funds from the state. Our bill will give smaller cities that same access. Localities know how to best address their communities' needs during this crisis and it's important for the federal government to support those efforts directly. I'm pleased to join my colleague Congressman Joe Neguse to ensure that all communities on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight have direct federal support for their response efforts."

This bill addresses economic impacts of, and otherwise responds to, the



*Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi,
Representative Ted Lieu*

COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. The bill authorizes emergency loans to distressed businesses, including carriers, and suspends certain aviation excise taxes.

CARES 2 Act

House Democrats are reportedly crafting the new plan to extend emergency provisions as the coronavirus pandemic continues to keep the economy shut down. The ambitious plan, which is being called "CARES 2" on the Hill, would pave the way for more direct payments to Americans forced to stay home during the outbreak, and provide additional assistance to small business and the unemployed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she hopes to have the legislation ready before the end of the month.

"CARES 2 must go further in assisting small businesses including farmers, extending and strengthening unemployment benefits and giving families additional direct payments," the California Democrat wrote in a letter to fellow lawmakers over the weekend, according to Newsweek. "Our communities cannot afford to wait, and we must move quickly."

Also speaking at the meeting were Jan Masaoka, CEO, and Lucy Carter, Public Policy director, of CalNonprofits.

Al talked about two bills he is introducing to help small businesses and nonprofits. He said there needs to be more federal

aid to nonprofits, including Paycheck Protection. He will give a letter to Governor Newsom to support this effort.

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Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Proposed Beach Cities Democrats Meeting Minutes

For April 29, 2020

Taken by Andrea Valcourt, Secretary

There was some discussion about using zoom and if we needed a tutorial. Everyone was able to get logged in.

Mike Detoy welcomed everyone and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, with a flag showing on the screen. He then said that he would leave the announcements until after our speakers because they are Beach Cities electeds and may need to leave after speaking. He turned the meeting over to Tony Hale to avoid any problems with him introducing the Hermosa Beach mayor, since he's on the council.

Tony introduced Mayor Mary Campbell and asked what is happening in Hermosa as it pertains to Covid-19.

Mary said it was nice to see everyone via zoom as we find ourselves in the middle of an election year and a pandemic. There has been extraordinary work done to determine when and how to close beaches and businesses thanks to our Democratic leadership. I'm not only proud of our leadership, but of our citizens responses. We didn't hesitate to take action.

It was the hardest thing to close down and keep our citizens updated. This is a long strategy, not a sprint. We have so much to learn about the disease. And, now we have the pressure to re-open. But we have to take a slow approach and not lose our advantage.

What keeps me up is the economic devastation to our economy and especially our Mom and Pop businesses. People want an exact re-opening date and what it will look like. It will have to be a phased re-opening and Hermosa is working with Redondo, Manhattan and El Segundo on a joint, regional plan. We're creating a plan based on each city's specifics. The logistics are enormous and we have to guarantee the County that we can manage the opening.

Hermosa is the most densely populated city in LA County, which itself is densely populated. We have to be careful not to open the door too wide and have another wave of infection. We are going to have to help people social distance and to protect the most vulnerable citizens.

Tony said many are asking what are the conditions for the beaches to open and what are the health risks?

Mary replied that before we can go forward, we need to know that hospital capacity can handle the new cases, that PPE is available, and that delayed elective medical procedures can be safely done. We also have to be able to handle the testing; great numbers of people need to be tested and contact tracing is needed to try to control future outbreaks because this disease is very contagious.

The beach is a great crowd lure. The ability to patrol is huge and we don't have the staff. We may need County help. It's next to impossible to keep big crowds separated. The County is also planning with us, since they supply our life guards and fire fighters. County Health has to sign off that our plan can be put into effect and can be enforced.

Stacy Golden stated that she's seen protesting at the beaches and wondered if Hermosa was affected.

Mary said that there have been mixed messages from the government at different levels. We're under a state Stay at Home Order and to walk not sit. Orange County has opened its beaches despite the State Order. LA County Health said you are saving lives by not opening the beaches and staying home.

We have some vocal surfers/volleyball players, who have petitioned to open the beaches, stating mental and physical health issues. We can't restrict outsiders because that's illegal. It is wishful thinking that we can re-open the beaches

now. We have a big victory in California. I'm not diminishing any deaths that have occurred, but we have a victory and we can't fumble it now. I can't imagine the backlash, if we did. We need to see the numbers go down. The logistics of re-opening is on the minds of all councilmembers.

Tony thanked the mayor for her remarks and turned the meeting back to Mike, who also thanked Mary and the introduced Manhattan Beach Councilwoman, Hildy Stern.

Hildy thanked Mary and then stated that we're experiencing the same issues in Manhattan Beach. We are working on a plan to re-open some parts of the city. People tell us that they want to open and be free. Who we're not hearing from are those happy with the Stay at Home Order. Dr. Roy, LA County Health, said that 68% of people think we should stay the course and keep people safe. We have to remember that. We hear from the protesters. We are focused on re-opening. We had a park open and had staff to monitor the crowds.

The Downtown is asking to open the Farmers Market with less vendors. Opening the beaches is the biggest concern. We've had a lot of great partnership with Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Businesses, restaurants, and others. They are also helping Little Company of Mary and others organizations.

We're learning about telework and reduced driving. Kids can now play outside. We need to appreciate where we live and how lucky we are. We just need patience. I appreciate being here tonight.

Jessica said that at the last leadership meeting, beaches closed because they are a risk to lifeguards. The cities could use this as a way to promote the slowing down of opening wishes. Hildy replied that that was a great point. Maybe Mary can speak to this. We have to keep reminding people that we have to protect our frontline people.

Mary stated that she was so glad this was brought up. Our frontline people are concerned and want to be protected. Suddenly, we're not worried about the frontline people, but with the economy. We'll bring this up at our planning session. Stacy added that Janice Hahn held a town hall and said that if we don't do shelter in place, we'd go back to many more infections. This is disconcerting. Is the County giving out this information? Maybe, if people understand this, it would help.

Mary asked, how much are we paying attention to what we know. There are two sides; one that is ok with sheltering in place and the other that listens to people, who want to open up now. I'm not familiar with specific stats, but Dr. Roy said we could see a surge in 14 days, if we open too soon. People have to hear this and believe this. Stacy added I'm sorry we can't be more articulate about this. Hopefully, the Club can help with this.

Mike then introduced Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand.

Bill said he was encouraged that our club is still active and giving him the opportunity to speak. Redondo is also dealing with when to open the beaches. Fortunately, none of our police or fire staff have tested positive. The public has been very responsive. Some think this is a hoax, but they are the small minority. We are in uncharted water. Little Company and Torrance Memorial hospitals are ready for another 400 patients each. They are ready because the public is wearing masks, staying home, washing their hands. There's a lot of inconsistencies everywhere you turn.

We're working on a phased approach with LA County and LA Lifeguards and Harbor. Each city has its own plan and we're under the LA County Health Order. We meet again Friday; looking forward to re-opening, but not wanting to rush into it. Redondo's infection numbers continue to move up, but not drastically. There are so many new things to learn about this disease.

The economy is in free fall and it is getting worse now. We'll reopen with a phased approach. We'll get out of this, but not fast enough for some. Our beaches may open May 18, but with no sitting or playing volleyball. People will need to keep moving.

The AES power plant was bought by a new developer, who is trying to keep the plant open for three more years. The public is getting involved as well as officials. Please send an email before May 11 opposing this to the Water Board. Staying open would mean tens of millions of dollars for the buyer. Please oppose any extension. I think we have a good chance of winning. The developer is committing to some parkland, but it is currently zoned parkland or power utility. So offering park land isn't much of an enticement. We have to protect our air and our health.

Thank you for inviting me to speak. We will get through this together, just don't know long it will take. Glad to take questions.

Craig Cadwallader, Surf Rider, asked if Bill could give an update on Al Muratsuchi's bill AB 2071. Bill said that Al is working on legislation to make it illegal to operate a power plant on active wetlands. The bill is being amended and Al is trying to make it an emergency bill. They will meet next week on it. Bill also said it would be great if Surf Rider would write a letter and Craig said they would.

Editorial note: The bill prohibits the state board, on or after January 1, 2021, from granting to an operator of a power plant additional time for complying with the once-throw cooling policy adopted by the state board if specified conditions are met. Put this into your browser to read further details and bill status.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2071

Mike thanked Bill and said he was glad Bill was still in good health. We will post on our website to email the Water Board by noon, May 11.

Tammy asked Bill if the homeless were affected by the virus and Bill said that LA County Health doesn't break that out in their statistics, but they must be.

Stacy made a motion for the club to write a letter to the Water Board and Connie seconded it. Mike asked for opposition to allowing the AES Power Plant to remain open for 3 more years.

Ken Petrolus stated that the plant doesn't operate that much and we might open ourselves up to a law suit. Dency asked, is there really a chance for a lawsuit? Bill replied that anybody can sue, but it's your First Amendment right to state your opinion. Dency said he was convinced we can write the letter.

Ken then asked about revenues. Bill said it's not about money, but about public health. There's not any real money for the city. The developer is looking to gain tens of millions of dollars. Stacy said that with the Administration relaxing oil regulations, anything we can do is to the good.

Ken repeated, how much money will the city lose? How much operating capacity is being used? Bill said the plant is operating at 2.5% and the city does not lose any money. Ken said that he read in the report that substantial money goes to the city, but that he would leave it at that.

Mike asked for a vote and the results were: opposition to the letter—none, abstentions—none, the motion passed unanimously.

Mike asked for other questions for our electeds. There were none and Mike thanked them for attending and said they were free to leave, if they had other obligations. Then, he asked for announcements.

Dency said that Al Muratsuchi was having a Town Hall on non-profits tomorrow and on Friday a Town Hall on Small Businesses. There are also plenty of opportunities to support the District 25 Special Election of Christy Smith. Finally, there's a House Party on Saturday. I'll push it to the Yahoo Group and ask Mark to post it to our website.

Mike stated that Janice Hahn does live video chats and Mary Campbell is hosting an Hermosa Town Hall tomorrow. We also need to form our nominating committee at our next meeting. Due to my commitments to the Hermosa City Council

and the Riverside Fire Department, I will not seek re-election. Please text or email me, if you want to be on the nominating committee or if you want to run for office.

Mike said that the Treasurer's report will be in the Newsletter. Then, he asked for Officers' reports.

Tony said that the By-law change to allow virtual meetings overwhelmingly passed by 66 to 2. Mike thanked everyone for returning their ballots.

Stacy said that this was the first meeting, since the March election, and that the club now has good delegate representation for the convention. Thanks for endorsing and supporting us. Tony added that the club made three calls in support of our four endorsed people and they all won. Dency added that Hany Fangary added this to his newsletter.

Tony read the Financial Report.

Tony reported that the County Committee didn't meet because of the virus, but the Policy Committee did virtually and passed a virtual meeting rule. We have new members to install and will need to determine how to do that virtually. The committee meets to establish policy for the clubs and the party.

Tony stated that our district was the first to vote for Biden and he won by the largest percentage. Mike and I are on the committee. Stacy added that Sergio said we would get letters from the Biden campaign and I did, but wasn't selected for the convention. There will be other delegate positions in the future. They haven't decided if there will be a national convention. Tony said that he also got this letter. They've decided who can run based on their criteria and I think its disappointing.

Tony said that very few people can go to the convention. I don't understand why they disqualify people, but if I find out I will advise. It's really a lottery because a very small number of people can attend. I think there will surprises. We don't even know how and when the convention will be held.

Connie Sullivan said that the last PV Club meeting was held via Zoom. The monthly breakfast meeting is on hold indefinitely.

Dency added that the WLA Club will meet via Zoom as well. They have great meetings and you don't need to be a member to attend. Mark has been posting their meetings on our website. The Zoom meetings are more opportunities to get together, while we're isolated.

Stacy said that May 12 is the Christy Smith special election and their outreach has been great via Zoom. Connie added that LA County will send mail-in ballots for this election.

Jessica Accamando from Hermosa Beach Volunteers said we're pleased that we have more volunteers than we need. We're trying to spread the word. So, share on your social media platforms. I've put my phone number on the volunteer form, but most have been able to fill it out without help. When a volunteer is paired with a person, they stay together indefinitely. We're also supplying masks.

Tony said that the State Party asked that we hold as many virtual house parties as possible to get people interested in the election. It's a great way to get people introduced to the democratic process.

Mike stated that his brethren firefighters don't always agree with him or the party, but recent events may be changing their minds.

Tony reminded everyone to put their names into run for an office or to be on the nominating committee, which finds people to run for office.

Mike added that our next meeting is May 27 and adjourned the meeting.