

Beach Cities Democrats October 27, 2020
Meeting Minutes
By Andrea Valcourt, Secretary

Jessica Accamando called the meeting to order and asked Ashley Tull to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, she turned the meeting over to our guest, Janice Hahn, LA County Supervisor.

Janice said that she was pleased to be able to spend time with our club and added that next week we'd be celebrating like the Dodger fans. She noted that her dad, Kenneth Hahn, helped bring the Dodgers to LA.

Currently, one out of three voters have already voted, which are more voters than in the Primary. We think we'll have a 50% or higher turnout by November 3. I asked the County Elections Office to open more ways to vote. There are 400 drop boxes and 800 voting centers. The Republicans tried to put up fake boxes, but were asked to take the illegal boxes down.

I think we did a good job educating the people about their voting options. We have some large venues in which to vote. I think the republicans tried to stoke fear about voting. We need to keep messaging that it is safe to vote and that there is no fraud.

Covid does dominate our lives, despite what the president says. So many people have gotten it, died, and/or lost employment. We're stuck in the purple tier, the highest tier. We really want to get to the Red tier and have a little more freedom to open businesses.

Our biggest threat is the backyard parties of 30 – 40 people. These are spreading the virus among the participants' families and friends. I know people are fatigued by staying home and following the new rules, but we need to do these things to continue to be safe and beat the virus.

We want to open our schools, but we have to get out of the Red Tier. We've made some progress for special needs students, English learners, and those needing help with a computer. 25% of LA schools are open for special needs students and some schools, who meet the requirements, have gotten waivers. LAUSD is not convinced that it is safe to open, so the unions won't support opening. We need parents, unions, and staff to work together and reach agreement about the requirements for a safe re-opening.

On another note, we need to look at policing. We've asked the police to respond to every type of situation. We have to triage 911 calls for mental illness. We need funding for mental health response vans. They can work with the patient and then take them to a mental health facility. This is a more appropriate response. Measure J will forever fund these issues and get better outcomes.

I'm excited that we are buying motels/hotels to house the homeless. We worked with Governor Newsome on this project. I'm proud of Redondo Beach for their Shelter Project and I'm giving money from my budget. It only gets 15 people off the street, but it's a good start, especially since there was a lot of opposition to the project and the meeting went very late.

Lori Geittman thanked the Supervisor for mentioning Redondo's project because Lori had worked on it. Zein Obogi also thanked her for supporting the project and helping to fund it. I know that this type of

housing has worked in other places and while others are against it, I am not, and live close by the first location.

Wayne stated that beach law enforcement needs to be improved because he sees drugs, fires, etc. on the beach and no enforcement of the laws. Janice replied that Beaches and Harbors enforce the beaches. Maybe, we can have a zoom with the mayors and Beaches and Harbors to develop a better enforcement strategy. I'll follow up on that.

Moira Zucker said that Norwalk had a lawsuit to block homeless shelters. Getting help and a clean room can make a great difference. Janice stated that we want to make the motels a permanent solution and partner with non-profits to run them. The County is the safety net to keep people from falling through the cracks. I'm standing strong on this issue.

Christian Horvath stated that he agrees with Janice, saying he's been working on this for five years. I hope we can make these units a permanent solution. We had an unanimous decision. The council spent a lot of time getting people to understand this problem and this solution. We need more voices to speak up because we all are at risk. Janice added that we have people struggling and more will become homeless if the Senate doesn't fund the Heroes Act.

Dency Nelson asked Hany Fangary if he wanted to weigh in, since he's been a big supporter of this. Hany said that the South Bay Council of Government has been working with PATH to help the homeless. We were happy to hear that Redondo has made some progress.

Janice said that she loved being with us on the call. I'm cautiously optimistic for November 3. I should call on you more often when I need help. Thank you for having me.

Jessica thanked Janice for attending. Then, added we will return to our agenda and asked for new attendees. Zein said that he was happy to join and has worked with Redondo Beach.

Jessica then gave her announcement that we'll have a Zoom call November 3 between 7:30 and 8:30 pm for whomever wants to take a minute with friends.

Doug Bender said that if the election is called on November 3, protests are planned around the country. We'll march in the South Bay and I'm putting the link in the Chat Box.

Dency stated that he knew we had all voted, but if you can phone bank to get the vote out in the Battle Ground states that would be great. The people being called will be the likely-to-vote Democrat voters. There's still plenty to do.

Moira said that she was horrified to see the large Trump car parade going through the South Bay on PCH. It stopped traffic and the police were guarding them. Why? Dency responded that it is their First Amendment right and the turnout was due to good promotion. Christian said that police were assigned from all the beach cities to keep things running smoothly.

Stacey Golden called our attention to a LA Times article about dumping DDT into the Channel and off Catalina Island. Scientists are monitoring the thousands of barrels, which were punctured to make them

sink, but that also allowed them to leak. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-coast-ddt-dumping-ground/>

Next, Jessica called for the officers' reports and there were none, except the Treasurer's report. Jessica added that our robo calls were made when the ballots were mailed and again today.

Next were the elected officials reports.

Hany, Hermosa City Councilmember, asked everyone to vote. There are four locations in Hermosa Beach and I'm taking my son with me on Friday.

He added that Hermosa is working on improving sidewalk dining. However, businesses have asked that the construction not start until January, so that it doesn't disrupt holiday business.

Christian, Redondo City Councilmember, said we've already talked about the Pallet housing and he hopes other cities will join Redondo. Zein gave a shout out to Christian for supporting the housing.

The Water Board recommended AES stay open for another year and there could be an extension.

The South Bay Broad Ban project is now complete and all cities have access to it. We are looking at what projects we can do such as synchronizing the traffic lights. Gardena has already put out WIFI in the parks. You should lobby your cities to do the same.

The city council is having a strategy meeting tomorrow on its ten year goals, basing them on policies agreed to by the Council. Looking for sister cities to work with us.

Dency said that Tony Hale, our Vice President, is working with the County Democratic Party to formulate resolutions.

Carolyn Waters stated that she heard that some people believe that the 5G network is associated with the pandemic. Do we have 5G? Christian answered that there is no 5G in the South Bay yet. We're getting ready for it and have a template contract for the telecom work. It will be a difficult project because it requires hardware installations every 500 to 1,000 feet, both on poles and on the ground. The ground equipment is large.

Ashley said that she's been reading about the anxiety felt by people 35 – 75 years old. Adding, hang in there everyone. I'm available if you want to call and talk. Dency added that the Beach Cities Health District has a lot of resources to help with this. Zein said there's a saying, when you're at the end it will be good and everything will be ok. If everything is not good and ok, then we're not at the end yet. Bobbi said that working on the campaigns and calling to get out the vote makes you feel good. Tony Salvaggio added that LA County has an app called Head Space to help with anxiety. <https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2020-05-01/los-angeles-county-free-headspace-app>

Then, Jessica adjourned the meeting.