



Supervisor Jeffries' Board Report

March 26th, 2019

This week's Board meeting was another quiet one, with only a couple of items generating any discussion. Here were the highlights for the county and the 1st District as I saw them:

Board Comments—Item 17 (Video Time Stamp 20:40) I gave an update on the poppy peeper problems in Lake Elsinore and Temescal Valley. Last weekend the City and County both expended significant resources trying to solve the traffic issues surrounding Walker Canyon on and off the freeway, and my focus in particular was keeping the tourists out of our residential neighborhoods. Our Emergency Management and Transportation Departments established signage and “residents and guests only” road closure checkpoints, and a terrific turnout from our volunteers in the community (Trilogy Sheriff's Volunteers, Community Emergency Response Team, and Disaster Response Team) helped monitor the checkpoints and keep traffic moving. The result was a significant improvement over the previous weekend, but we are looking at how to refine our efforts for the coming weekend, as well as address the mid-week traffic issues.

Setting Hearing for Home Kitchen Business Ordinance —Item 3.10 (Video Time Stamp 31:00) This item was simply setting a public hearing date of April 16th to hear an ordinance that would allow home kitchen based businesses, but it prompted significant discussion by the Board after a presentation by our Environmental Health Department. State law recently changed to permit residents to cook and prepare hot food items either for delivery, sale, or even home consumption (limited to 30 meals per day, 60 total per week). While this offers an opportunity for residents to start a food related business at home without the expenses of a restaurant building or commercial kitchen, state law limits how inspections can be done by our Environmental Health Department. The Board voted 4-1 (Supervisor Washington dissenting) to set the hearing for April 16th.

Approval of New Contract with LIUNA Labor Union— Item 3.13 (Video Time Stamp 59:40) Laborer's International Union of North America (LIUNA) represents over 7,000 Riverside County employees, roughly a third of the workforce. Their last contract expired in 2016, and it has taken a long time and a lot of effort to come to a mutually agreeable contract.

The new agreement is projected to save the county over \$3 million during the next two years compared to the costs of the previous contract, but will certainly cost more than if we had approved no raises or benefit increases at all. There was a presentation from our HR Director and a discussion among the Board about this agreement, with Supervisor Hewitt expressing his concern that this agreement will be too expensive for the county to maintain, and that it may hasten and worsen the need for layoffs to employees in the near future. I recounted the recent history of the county's mismanagement of spending, and how much money has been wasted on projects and consultants that could have been used for our employees. We have a real fiscal crisis at the county, but we can't solve it entirely on the backs of our employees. This deal will keep employees from losing ground financially against inflation and rising health care costs, without the unsustainable combination of automatic pay raises and COLAs that were contained in the previous contract. The contract passed 4-1, with Supervisor Hewitt as the lone "no" vote. An article on the discussion and history of the negotiations can be found here:

<https://www.pe.com/2019/03/26/riverside-county-supervisors-approve-two-year-contract-with-7200-workers/>

You can see all the agenda items and staff reports, and watch the video of the meeting at this link here:

<http://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2034&MinutesID=2069&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mpeg4>

Our next Board Meeting is April 2nd at 9am.

Other upcoming events are:

Saturday, March 30th, 8am-noon: Meadowbrook/Good Hope Community Cleanup @ Closed Mead Valley Landfill, 22376 Forrest Rd, Perris, CA