

# MEAD VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 11th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

MEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Rider Street, Mead Valley, CA 92570

## MINUTES

0.0 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

1.0 Roll Call: Tony Davila (Chairperson), Paz Trevino (Vice-Chairperson), Tania Garcia (Secretary), Ali Mazarei (Member), and Charles Romero (Alt), Rogelio Rawlins (Alt) –All Present

2.0 Approval of Minutes: February 11th, 2015 – Moved/Seconded/Approved

3.0 Public Safety Updates:

3.1 Riverside Sherriff's Department: Deputy Thomas

- The valley is still quite. But the burglaries are starting to go up because people are not locking their doors and windows. There are 3 houses on Markham that got burglarized the other week. They all had their doors unlocked.
- Marijuana growths are starting up again. We are waiting for the county ordinance. Once the ordinance is in place we are going to start dealing with those marijuana grows.
- On Saturday I arrested a guy who was stealing cars. He is in custody right now.
- Any questions?
  - Resident: What do we do if someone comes to our property and ask us to buy/rent our property to plant marijuana? *Answer*-I would say no. We have the cartel in Mead Valley right now. They are paying people over \$5,000 to grow marijuana. The most that people can have right now is 24 plants not 99 plants. 99 plants is a state law and we do not go by this. Think about your safety and your families. Give us a call.
  - Tony Esquibel: My neighbor is concerned with marijuana grows happening next to his property. People used to grow marijuana in front of the lot now they moved it even closer to my neighbor's property. *Response*-Tell him to call Code Enforcement and see where they stand.

3.2 Riverside Fire Department: Officer Shawn Arnold, Station 59

- Incidents of past month
  - 59 structural fires, 29 other fire types, 137 medical aids, 6 hazardous materials, and 2 other types.
- Yolonda Williams: *Question*-Why do I receive a letter to clean the weeds around our property but it is a vacant lot? *Answer*-There is an ordinance for vacant lots but we are not in charge of this. However, next time you get this letter bring it down to us and we will see what we can do.

3.3 Code Enforcement: Officer Donna Payne

- We are starting a volunteer program (2 needed; one downtown and one for the community center). I have brochures and applications with me.
- On April 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a community clean up at Tomas Rivera Middle School.
- Animal Control: they are still doing the free spay and neuter bus. March 6, 7, 15. Please use this service, the more it is used the more they will come.
- Yolonda Williams: *Question*-Is there a prerequisite for the code volunteers, such as fingerprints? *Answer*-I am not sure about the fingerprints but they do need to fill out an application. If anyone is interested let us know.

- Corrin Condran: *Question*-Do you need volunteers for the clean-up? *Answer*-Waste Management is doing this, so please contact them.
- We are starting a work-release program
  - The elderly need help cleaning up their properties
  - We are working on a waiver to get people on properties help with cleaning up.

#### 4.0 New Business:

##### 4.1 Center Updates: Ronald Donis, Area Manager

- On March 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a party for seniors with free food, on March 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a senior shopping trip, and on March 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a senior western party. There is also an Easter event on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be an increase of the Banquet rental fees beginning in April. The fee will go from \$95/hour to \$125/hour
  - Resident: *Question*-Why the increase? *Answer*-There was an analysis done that suggested the increase. This is still the cheapest hall rental around our area.
- Maricela Martinez: *Question*-Are you guys in charge of the produce truck? I believe their prices are high. *Answer*-No, that is FSA but I can get you in contact with them.
- Yolonda Williams: *Comment*-I just want to elaborate on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April event. There will be an Easter egg hunt, games, and community market rental spaces. The cost per space is \$15 plus a \$10 deposit that will be returned if spot is cleaned. The money raised will help support this center.

##### 4.2 Business Park/Retail Development: Joe Mineo, Real Estate Development

- Tom Ketcham: I want to introduce Joe Mineo who is proposing a new project by Harvill and Cajalco. It will consist of a Farmer Boys and other restaurants.
- Joe Mineo: Good evening. Our company began in 1981. We actually started the 1<sup>st</sup> Farmer Boys in this area. We want to have a Farmer Boys, 3 other fast foods and a coffee shop. We will also have retail space available. In total it is a 32,000 sq. ft. project. We have been working with the Supervisor's office and we are revising our project according to their requirements. We will reintroduce this to them once revisions are done.
- Any questions or comments
  - Eva Herrera: Will it affect the Farmer Boys on the other side of intersection? *Answer*-We did a study and the effect will be minor.
  - Shade: Is the entire area owned by Farmer Boys? *Answer*-Yes, we would lease it to tenants.
  - Yolonda Williams: How many parking spaces will be provided? *Answer*-There will be 146 parking spaces.
  - Resident: Where will the big rigs park? *Answer*-We have not provided for this. We are not sure if we can accommodate rigs. DAVILA-We do have an Arco across the street with plenty of truck parking.
  - Maricela Martinez: Are there any wildlife that has to be removed? *Answer*-This is a commercial zone. The studies have been done, there will be no wildlife disturbed.
  - ROMERO: 495 students graduated from Citrus high school last year. How are we going to get these kids jobs? *Answer*-We usually hire locally.
  - Resident: Why are agencies needed to hire? *Answer*-We actually hire directly.
  - Gerardo Avila: I would like to thank you for bringing in business to our community.

##### 4.3 Riverside Transit Agency (RTA): Eric Ustation, Government Affair Representative

- We offer 3 types of services:
  - Fixed type-scheduled stops
  - Commuter Services-limited stops; which have Wi-Fi and charging ports.
  - Dial a ride-for senior and disabled individuals; must call 1 or 2 days in advance.

- Travel training (additional): We hired individuals to train seniors to use regular buses. They will ride with individual until they feel comfortable. This is free.
- Transportation Now: Perris/Moreno Valley group that advocate alternatives to driving a car.
- Gerardo Avila: *Comment*-The County is growing. Why not, bring on more buses. Now is the time that we have open space. *Answer*-That is a great idea. The problem comes down to money. It costs 15 million/mile of track.
- Maricela Martinez: *Comment*-As gas went up, more people used your services. Sometimes people must spend their money on food and rent rather than waste it on gas. *Response*-Yes, we saw a spike in riders when gas went up. Thank you for the comment.
- Yolonda Williams: *Question*-When will RTA sell bus passes at Midway Market, 76, or Arco? *Answer*-We have to make sure businesses will do it. We actually have a staff member that scopes out businesses willing to participate. Let me know if you know of any businesses interested. You can also order bus passes online. *Question*-Why are there no bus shelters for route 22 stops? *Answer*-If we do anything to a bus stop we have to add everything (bench, sidewalks, etc.). The average cost for a shelter is \$10,000. Money that we don't have. We are working on at least improving the most used stops. *Comment*-I just want everyone to know that we have to buy a booklet not just the bus pass.
- MAZARIE: I offer my Arco business to sell bus passes.

#### 5.0 Public Comments:

- Leona: I am the new manager of the Mead Valley Library. I just began last week. I have a brochure with all of the programs listed for you to take. I hope to see you there. Thank you. DAVILA-volunteers are needed for the Veterans Center, please contact library.
- Giovanna Sedgwick: GED classes will start on April 10<sup>th</sup> (applications available), and there are ESL classes every day in the morning and afternoon.
- Maggie Pacheco: I am a former MAC Council member. Someone made a comment at the last meeting that offended me. It was said that the last MAC Council did not do anything for the community. A lot was accomplished and we did the best that we could with what we had. When the economy collapsed, services went out the window. I know people were unhappy with Bob Buster but he did accomplished a lot while I was on the MAC. If you are going to come here and complain then get involved. Again this comment offended me and I just wanted to stand up for the prior MAC. DAVILA-I would like to thank you for mentoring me when I started. I'm proud of all MAC councils past and present. I learned a lot from the prior MAC and still depend on their wisdom and advice to help me better serve as an advisor. We all serve honorably, if anyone here would like to volunteer for MAC please contact Mr. Ketcham and apply.
- Eva Herrera: I need a storage container for my property. I need ordinances to be changed so that people are able to have a container and not have to have a 5 acre lot.
- Tony Esquibel: Can a permit for marijuana be bought and how many plants can we grown? How close can plants be grown to next property? DAVILA- Mr. Ketcham can answer in more detail but I hear when the ordinance goes into effect no more than 24 plants per parcel can be grown.
- Yolonda Williams: You heard a lot from me tonight. I would like to thank the community for responding. We are only going to grow. I would like to thank the MAC for bringing good speakers. One last thing if they said we were going to have a 7/11 on cajalco then why is there a Circle K/ 76 on that property? Please, look out for us MAC council.

#### 6.0 Report from Supervisor Jeffries:

- Air Quality Management District (AQMD): David M. Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist & Tracy A. Goss, Program Supervisor

- Supervisor Jeffries contacted us to make ourselves available to this MAC. The Inland Empire has the worst air quality which is why there are no burn days. We work with Fire Departments and advise them on air quality.
- This is David Madsen your area representative.
  - You guys can connect with me and I will help with whatever I can.
- Are there any questions or comments?
  - Mrs. Ann Miller: Who is monitoring the exhaust we are getting from drive-thru restaurants. *Answer*-We actually tackled the drive-thru issue a long time ago. Our solution was to eliminate it. Obviously it did not go well.
  - Resident: We need to think about our air. *Response*-We have a smog check program but clearly not enough.
  - Gerardo Avila: I would like to thank you for coming. I would like to know if you guys gave any types of regulations concerning diesel engines running for hours. *Answer*-There is a requirement for new filter for these types of trucks. We have a grant program for this. As for how long they can be kept running I am not sure if there is a county code on this.
  - Resident: How do low flying jets affect our health? *Answer*-Aircraft emissions are concerning but they are not under our jurisdiction. Maybe we can have a staff member put a presentation together and come and present it here.
  - Gilbert Williams: We have tumbleweeds we have to get rid of and the whole season has had no burn days. What's happening? *Answer*-We make our forecasts on a day to day basis. There are certain times of the year that are better to burn tumbleweeds. Historically the least amount of no burn days are in March and April. DAVILA-So we should be coming up on some days when tumbleweed can get burned?
  - Resident: Is this the same board responsible for getting rid of the racetrack and bringing in a mall in its place? Davila- That is not this MAC council or AQMD. That would be a question for the County. They have weekly meeting. We can get you in contact with them.

#### 6.1 Tom Ketcham, Legislative Analyst for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

- Racetrack: The city of Riverside is responsible.
- Containers: Ordinance is still moving through the system.
- Shooting Range: The captain will come to the next meeting and speak on this
- Prior MAC: I would like to thank all of you for your service. I am not one to judge.
- Acoustics: We still need 2 more bids. Ron said he would work on getting a speaker system in here once acoustics are in.
- Charles Miegs Sign: working on this
- RTA: I invite you all to come to a Transportation Now meeting. There is free lunch.
- Truck Parking: Ali does have truck parking.
- Circle K (gas station): is now open
- Cajalco and Seaton: Paving will be starting up soon. There will be an inconvenience with #1 lane.
- Renewed Hope: The childcare of the center is now open.
- Easter Event: come and stop by on April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Clean-ups: There is one happening on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Tomas Rivera Middle School
- Marijauna: There is no 99 plant rule. This is how our ordinance will work. You will go to your Doctor and get a prescription for medical marijuana. You will then take this prescription to the County doctor and get this validated. Once validated you can get a medical ID card with your picture. The card shows law enforcement that you do possess marijuana for medical purposes, and will show the ability to grow 12 plants. Keep in mind though that Code Enforcement can still give you a ticket for \$10. The maximum amount of plants that can be grown per parcel is 24 plants. If an individual has 25 plants then Code can give them a \$1,000 citation and call the Sheriff. Our intentions with this ordinance is to stop commercial growers. The ordinance right now is at county counsel, then it will go to planning and back to board of supervisors. It may come into effect in

May or June. Keep in mind that having an ID card just validates that you have gone through the system. It is still not legal for someone to smoke, grow, or sell it.

- Water Tower: looking into Welcome to Mead Valley being painted on tower.
- Marriot Hotel: There will be a presentation next month about this.

#### 7.0 Mead Valley MAC Board Member Comments:

- Rogelio Rawlins: I like when guest speakers answer questions from the residents that is why they are here. They are the experts.
- Ali Mazarei: The Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce has put together a Seminar every other Wednesday for entrepreneurs. We are still doing Win Some Wheels for anyone that is interested. Tickets are \$2. Non-profits get to keep \$1. We are raising \$200,000.
- Paz Trevino: I like what I heard today. If we want to control what happens in Mead Valley we need to ask the right questions. We have to make sure we are involved in our community otherwise we already know who will be, the drug dealers. The cartel wants this area but we need it too. We want it for us. It takes you guys' being here and listening to the speakers making your comments and voicing your opinions. We are here to take your opinions and concerns, record them in the record and send them on to the Supervisor. That is what this meeting is about. Thank you for coming.
- Tania Garcia: Thank you everyone for coming out tonight. Goodnight.
- Charles Romero: I want to thank Leona, Riverside County Librarian. Welcome aboard. Please support our library. Thank you.
- Tony Davila: Prior, present, and future MAC members all will come from Mead Valley. I would encourage residents who wish to judge them to apply for MAC service and you can judge for yourself what MAC does. We have a position available. So apply. I would like to thank all of the prior MAC members for their service, Mr. Cussins, Mr. Miller, Mr. Price, Mr. Byrnes and Mrs. Pacheco. We asked the county for some type of recognition for our community volunteers. They are working on this. Mr. Trevino will be leading the MAC in August, I will remain a member and assist him in any way I can. I can still be contacted at (951) 742-1607 should you feel I can be of assistance.

#### 8.0 Future Agenda Items:

- Office of Aging
- Animal Control
- MAC meeting possibly time changed 5pm

Date proposed next Meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6pm @ Mead Valley Community Center

Adjournment time: 8:40pm

Attendance: 47