

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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John Vicke: A Lifetime of Loyalty and Dedication to Lawndale Students



Deputy Superintendent John Vicke wraps up a 29-year career with Lawndale ESD. Photo by Laura Martinez

Citizens at Odds Over Right to Speak

By Haleemon Anderson

Action at this week's meeting of the Lawndale City Council to limit public comments met with objections from a few vocal citizens. Two recommendations--a request to limit individual comments to three minutes, and increased measures to handle obstructive behavior at meetings--were agendized under Meeting Procedures and Meeting Order and Decorum, respectively.

Resident Pam London strongly objected to the reduction of time for individual comments. Current practice gives the public an opportunity to address the Council after special presentations and the public safety report. Each participant is allotted five minutes to speak directly to the Council.

Another resident, Randall Abram, also objected to the move to decrease the time by two minutes. "The residents are strongly opposed," he said, noting the five-minute rule has been in effect in Lawndale for over 30 years. "This is a way to censor the few residents who care about the city. It's not reasonable under the Brown Act." Abrams was referencing the legislative action of 1953 that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local governing bodies.

Resident Johnny London questioned Lawndale going the way of other cities that have cut public time. "Is this a way to silence the few who have legitimate issues?" he questioned. "Please don't silence us. Let our voices be heard."

Marge Hienemann, another resident who frequents Council meetings and has sat on various City advisory boards, also objected to the change. "Why cut us back to three minutes? What's the point?" she asked. "Think about the people who do come and make an effort to make Lawndale better."

Pam London offered a possible compromise. "Why not limit the time for the flag salute and prayer?" she suggested. London noted the average total time of public comments is 18 minutes and stressed that the Council should

distinguish between public comments and public announcements.

The Council moved forward, approving unanimously to revise public comment time limits. The group also gave unanimous approval for a first reading to amend City Code 2.04.120, effectively increasing legal penalties for disrupting Council meetings.

Assistant City Clerk Pam Giamaria clarified to the Council that the proposed amendment would "tidy up the language" of the ordinance, making it crystal clear what measures may be taken regarding acts that obstruct meetings. Giamaria said cities have been sued by citizens who believe their free speech rights have been violated. The amendment would not control or censor speech, she said, but would explicitly state the penalty for acts that obstruct meetings.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles and City Manager Steve Mandoki both confirmed they had witnessed only two incidents of speakers being ejected from meetings. Pullen-Miles asked that a "wobbler" be added to the language of the amendment. Lieutenant John Hocking clarified that the wobbler gives law enforcement leeway in charging offenders or simply removing them from the meeting.

In other business, Mandoki announced that the City will receive additional block grant funding for the 2017-18 fiscal year, bringing the total fund to over \$900,000. The funds are earmarked for improvement projects in low-income neighborhoods.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles announced Deputy Gabby Vidrio has been promoted to detective at the Southwest Los Angeles Station, after two years on special assignment in Lawndale. The Council thanked Vidrio for her service and presented her with a plaque of recognition. In accepting the award, Vidrio thanked Lt. Hocking, saying, "I'm going to miss working in Lawndale. I'll miss my partners."

Captain April Tardy gave the public safety report. There were two substantial arrests in the period between December 5 and 19. On

December 14, a suspect was arrested and charged with making criminal threats to a Lawndale staff member. In the other incident, Lt. Hocking observed a known gang member on Osage Avenue carrying a semi-automatic handgun. Upon pursuit, the suspect ran into a residence. The suspect was taken into custody and found in possession of the handgun and a sawed-off shotgun. The handgun had been recently fired.

Library Manager Lyda Truick announced a crafting event for youth to be held Friday, December 30. Kids will be able to make wearable items themed for the New Year. On January 7, the first Saturday of 2017, the library will hold its annual book sale.

In public comments, Pam London voiced concerns about building permits and illegal add-ons, and the proliferation of residents parking on lawns. "Why don't property owners follow code?" asked London. "Why can they [build], but not others?"

Johnny London questioned Lawndale's rental property inspection process, saying there are over 200 non-licensed properties in the city. He thought the problem will only get worse. The feeling among violators, he cautioned, is, "They're not gonna catch me, and they're not gonna do anything about it."

Mayor Pullen-Miles responded to concerns about a recent accident on Inglewood Avenue, saying the intersection at 166th Street is troublesome as it sits at a boundary with Redondo Beach. Placing a traffic signal will require an impact study and approval from both city councils. "We would need buy-in from them," said Pullen-Miles, noting he met with a Redondo Beach councilmember to begin moving the issue forward.

The Lawndale City Council will hold its next regular meeting on January 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lawndale City Hall Council Chambers. The Council approved cancellation of the regular meeting scheduled for January 3 •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Cloudy/
Rain
61°/53°



Saturday
Sunny/
Windy
55°/45°



Sunday
Mostly
Sunny
55°/46°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Emerald

Add a little sparkle to your holiday when you adopt a new feline friend. For the month of December, adoption fees for all kitties six months old and up are half off!

Emerald was found by a Good Samaritan in a trashcan at only one to two days old. Along with her sister, Emerald was bottle-fed--and as a result, is super people-friendly and incredibly loving. Her spectacular tortoiseshell markings are incredibly cute and complement her greenish eyes. Emerald loves to sleep on your lap and snuggle in your arms. She will groom your arms, hands, hair and legs when given the chance--even licking constantly for over 20 minutes! Emerald is a character and loves to play with toys. Super curious and always exploring the house, she is both active and mellow. It takes her time to adjust to new cats, but she gets along with everyone in her foster home. Emerald would be an amazing new family member and will love you forever.

As a tiny little kitten, **Lucy** was rescued from underneath a dumpster and was raised in a loving foster home with her kitty sister. She was adopted shortly after her dramatic rescue, but unfortunately six years later her human mom could no longer care for her and she found herself back at Kitten Rescue looking for a new forever home. Lucy is a very funny little girl. She is still very playful and chipper like a kitten, but she would usually rather hang out in a kitty hammock or cushy bed than go running around the house. She is a kitty who knows what she wants, and that is to be petted! She will chirp at you and sweetly demand to be petted until you comply. And if you stop petting her before she's done, she'll gently tap you on the hand to let you know you are not yet free to leave. Since she can be a little pushy and



Samantha

grabby, she would do best in a calm home with adults only. Ideally, she would be an only-kitty so she can properly be the center of attention, but she could probably coexist with another mellow dog or cat that mostly leaves her alone.

Samantha is very sweet and affectionate. She and her siblings were left behind to fend for themselves when their owner was evicted. She loves to sit on your lap and watch TV, or play fetch with kitty toys. She also likes belly rubs. Samantha will sleep with you in bed and stay all night. Samantha is a very sweet, loving little girl and has a very cute meow. She is very bonded with her brother Loveboat and they would love to be adopted together.

Loveboat is the sweetest, most loving cat. He's very affectionate and likes to play with toys, sit on your lap and get belly rubs. He loves to cuddle and purr himself to sleep, and is very playful and affectionate with his siblings--especially Samantha. Loveboat likes to curl up beside you in bed and stays the whole night. He is an absolute love bug.

Tommy was rescued off the streets in Koreatown last May. He was badly injured and in a lot of pain from someone hitting him in the face with a shovel. It broke off his teeth and cut open his face on both sides of his mouth. If Tommy had not been rescued, he probably would have died. Now two surgeries later, he is all better. But the lady who rescued him doesn't want Tommy inside her house, so he lives in a large cage in her backyard all by himself. He really needs a loving human to adopt him and let him be an indoor kitty. Tommy would prefer to be an only pet. Most of the time, he is content to hang out, sitting on a couch or in a window and watching stuff outside. Would you please

give Tommy a chance? All he really wants is to live indoors in a warm, loving home where he can fully overcome his shy side.

Morsel is a sweet, affectionate, playful boy. He loves his mouse toys and crinkly ball toys and to chase and wrestle with his sister Niblet and foster mates. Morsel enjoys human attention, but sometimes he doesn't know how to ask for it. So he always let you know by his cuddles and purrs that he is enjoying your attention. Due to his age and energy level, Morsel needs another playful kitty in any new home and would love to go with his sister or one of his foster mates. The best Christmas present of all would be a forever home!

These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All



Morsel

our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org, or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org.

Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Blvd. just south of Manchester Ave. and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Ave, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •



Lucy



Tommy



Loveboat

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