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COMMISSION MINUTES
Thursday, August 13, 2020
2:00 p.m.

**Members of the public who wish to speak to the Commission during the meeting must submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the public comments for each agenda item of interest. Comments by the public on matters not identified on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the item designated as "Public Comments Period." The length of public speaking time is two minutes, unless the presiding officer grants some other amount of time.*

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Meeting called to order at: 2:01 PM by President **Louie**. Commissioners present: **Marez, Alarcon, Collado, DiCostanzo, Garcia, Samarjian, Thomas, Vasquez**. Also present: General Manager Arturo Chavez, Assistant General Manager Edgar Garcia, El Pueblo Staff Darlene Lopez, El Pueblo Staff Ailene Ignacio, and Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Soriano.

1. WELCOMING REMARKS.

Commissioner Louie began the meeting by welcoming El Pueblo's new Assistant General Manager Edgar Garcia. Commissioner Louie shared that Mr. Garcia is a local from Lincoln Heights. He attended Cathedral High School, Yale, and UCLA. Mr. Garcia first joined the City as a preservation planner and was a representative to El Pueblo. Commissioner Louie shared many of Mr. Garcia's accomplishments and awards. Mr. Garcia thanked Commissioner Louie for the welcome and shared his personal experience and fondness for El Pueblo. Mr. Garcia stated that, in his new role as Assistant General Manager, he would like to be a resource to all stakeholders at El Pueblo. Commissioner Louie then introduced the newest Commissioner Aaron Thomas. Commissioner Thomas is an alumnus of the University of California, Berkeley. He is an Urban Forestry Manager with North East Trees and a member of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council. Commissioner Thomas has completed many urban forestry projects both locally and internationally. Commissioner Thomas stated that he has a strong connection to and knowledge of the natural history of the City. Living in nearby Solano Canyon, he considers El Pueblo part of his neighborhood. Mr. Chavez shared that he, Mr. Garcia, and Commissioner Thomas have all worked together in different capacities in the past and stated that they are both welcomed assets to El Pueblo.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM.

All Commissioners were present. A quorum was established.



3. EL PUEBLO COMMISSION ELECTION.

Commissioner Collado stated that she was unaware of this item and motioned to postpone the election until the following meeting. The motion was not seconded. Commissioner Louie opened the nominations. Commissioner Alarcon nominated Commissioner Vasquez for Commission President. Commissioner DiCostanzo nominated sitting Commission President Louie for another year. Commissioner Thomas inquired about abstaining from voting as the meeting was his first. He was advised to abstain from voting from both votes to be fair. The Commissioners heard statements from both parties elected.

Commissioner Vasquez began by thanking Commissioner Alarcon for her nomination. She shared that while she has only been on the Commission for just under a year that it is near and dear to her heart. Commissioner Vasquez stated that in this time of need and uncertainty that leadership is needed. Gaps in leadership, she said, have been seen on many levels. She stated that she would bring fierceness, passion, and engagement to her role as President. Commissioner Vasquez moved on to state that she believes the leadership of the Commission should be rotated. Her hope is that the El Pueblo Commission could encourage and mentor the next generation of civic leaders.

Commissioner Louie shared that he has had the opportunity to serve El Pueblo for twelve (12) years under two (2) Mayors and three (3) General Managers and Assistant General Managers. He shared a deep love of El Pueblo and Los Angeles. He shared major accomplishments made by the Commission during his time served. Commissioner Louie stated that there is a certain experience and skill set that he has learned over this period. He would like to serve a second year as Commission President. He stated that the Presidency is a great position to work from. He shared the challenges of the previous years and how he volunteered to take the position as President to bring the Commission back together. Commissioner Louie agreed that the younger generation should be brought in and mentored. He welcomed the opportunity to try and impart his experience on the newer Commissioners. He concluded that he would like one more year as President of the Commission to get through COVID-19 and keep El Pueblo as the crown jewel of Los Angeles.

Public Speakers:

1. Vivien Bonzo, La Golondrina, W-17 - Ms. Bonzo shared that she has been on Olvera Street since she was a little girl. Her family has been present for ninety (90) years. She stated that she appreciates Commissioner Louie's twelve (12) years of service and shared that they have ridden through difficult times. She said that Olvera Street is at a critical juncture where many businesses are in jeopardy. Ms. Bonzo felt that if ever there was time for "new blood" it is now. She stated that Merchants have tried for four (4) months to get the Commission to act to no avail, until recently. She requested that Commissioner Louie continue his participation in the Commission but endorsed Commissioner Vasquez for President. She said that Commissioner Vasquez has impressed many Merchants with her passion and willingness to help.
2. Greg Berber, La Luz Del Dia, W-1 - Mr. Berber echoed Ms. Bonzo. He stated that he appreciated Commissioner Louie's service, but would like to see Commissioner Vasquez as President. He characterized Commissioner Vasquez as a resilient problem-solver who has shown an interest in the Merchants, the property, and what El Pueblo could be. He shared that Commissioner Vasquez personally reached out to him and has shown an interest in the day-to-day running of Olvera Street.
3. Manny Paz, Art On Fire, K-2 - Mr. Paz shared sentiment that these are difficult times. He thanked Commissioner Louie as well as expressing that he would be happy to have Commissioner Vasquez on board as well.
4. Edward Flores, Juanita's Cafe, E-20 - Mr. Flores asked the Commissioners to put their vote with Commissioner Vasquez. He stated he appreciated Commissioner Louie's service despite

being occasionally at odds. Mr. Flores stated that the world is changing rapidly and has become a young person's world. He felt that a youthful person with a fresh perspective is more qualified to handle the situation.

5. Peter Martinez, Lozen's Trading Post, E-21 - Mr. Martinez stated that the vote for President may be one of the most important decisions in El Pueblo's history. He said that, while he likes the energy Commissioner Vasquez brings, Commissioner Louie's experience is what is needed at El Pueblo. He stated that he had never seen Commissioner Louie miss a meeting and that he took his time. He stated that in this situation El Pueblo must go with experience.
6. Lisanne Magdaleno Lee - Ms. Magdaleno Lee shared that she has seen many Commissioners come and go. She stated that she has disagreed with Commissioner Louie in the past, but has the utmost respect for him. She requested clarification from the City Attorney's Office (CAO) on Commissioner appointments. She concluded that the Commission needs new energy and said she believes that Commissioner Vasquez would bring that.
7. Gina Rodriguez, A La Mexican Imports, C-4 - Ms. Rodriguez expressed her support of Commissioner Vasquez's bid for President. She stated that Commissioner Vasquez pushed the Commission to meet regarding the requests of the Merchants. Ms. Rodriguez said that the Merchants have been looking for action since March and are only just now seeing any. She felt this showed a lack of leadership. She said she sees love for the Merchants and El Pueblo with Commissioner Vasquez. She was concerned that the Commission no longer remembered that they represent the Merchants.
8. Marianna Gatto, Historic Italian Hall Foundation - Ms. Gatto stated that she listened to the previous comments and saw that the Commission has a great team blending historic knowledge with "new blood" as it was previously characterized. She took a moment to recognize Commissioner Louie's commitment, fairness, and engagement. She said that this is a time where experience counts and concluded that having an institutional memory on the Commission is essential.

Commissioner DiCostanzo acknowledged that he nominated Commissioner Louie for another term but clarified that this did not mean Commissioner Vasquez would not make a wonderful president. He stated that, by her own admission, Commissioner Vasquez has not been on the Commission for very long. He stated that he would personally nominate her for Vice President and encouraged others to see her as an example. He encouraged Commissioner Vasquez to learn and agreed that the role of President should be rotated. Commissioner DiCostanzo stated that COVID-19 has devastated the world and that El Pueblo, being entirely within one City Council District, has experienced a lack of leadership with Councilman Huizar being absent or ineffectual for some time. He complimented Mr. Chavez in his role as General Manager. He stated that he and the other Commissioners could be more effective but said that he feels Commissioner Louie has done a good job with the changes. Commissioner DiCostanzo finished by saying that he would like to see Commissioner Louie as President for another year with Commissioner Vasquez as Vice President.

Ms. Soriano provided clarification on Commissioner Thomas' inquiry about abstention. She stated that he could not abstain from voting in the election, as an abstention would automatically be considered a "yes." She advised Commissioner Thomas to vote in the election. Commissioner Louie tabled the election until after the Action Items with no objections.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

1. Emily Martinez, Margarita's, C-7 - Ms. Martinez shared that she had issues trying to speak during the previous public comment section. She requested a copy of all Commissioners' email addresses. She inquired about the Department reviewing all contracts on file. As she was unable to speak on the elections before, Ms. Martinez expressed her support for Commissioner Louie.

She stated that she has heard much about Commissioner Vasquez. Ms. Martinez stated that it was evident that the Commissioner has only spoken to one group of Merchants. She said that there is a need for experience on the Commission.

2. Pablo Sanchez, Andrea's Gift Shop, C-8 - Mr. Sanchez shared that he sent an email to Mr. Chavez regarding the letter to be discussed at the meeting. He stated that this email was not included in the packet provided to Commissioners. In his email, he suggested an alternative to the security and fencing measures proposed in the letter from Merchants. He instead suggested hiring two (2) health ambassadors to help monitor Olvera Street.
3. Lianne Magdaleno Lee - Ms. Magdaleno Lee welcomed Commissioner Thomas and Mr. Garcia. She requested a recording of the meeting in progress on a zip drive.
4. Peter Martinez, Lozen's Trading Post, E-21 - Mr. Martinez stated that his greatest concern is El Pueblo losing its historical value and said that Mr. Garcia's qualifications were promising. He stated that the General Plan has been ignored and El Pueblo might end up as an amusement park.
5. Edward Flores, Juanita's Cafe, E-20 - Mr. Flores welcomed the new Commissioner and Assistant General Manager. He said he shared the same alma mater with Mr. Garcia. He moved on to say that Commissioner Vasquez has been available to anyone who reached out to her and that it is not her obligation to reach out to Merchants.
6. Jim Jang, Friends of the Chinese American Museum - Mr. Jang said that without the visuals of an in-person meeting Commission attendees miss out on many details. He stated that meetings were easier to follow when supporting documents were available to the public at the meetings. He expressed his support for Commissioner Louie for President and Commissioner Vasquez as Vice President.

5. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

6. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT.

Mr. Chavez shared with the Commission that the Department has opened the office building with a staggered schedule, with staff on site every day. He said the building is not currently open to the public and thanked El Pueblo staff Ailene Ignacio for her work on the reopening. He shared that there has been increasing interest in filming on site. An event will be filmed on site for September 15th in partnership with the City of Los Angeles to be streamed to the public. Mr. Chavez stated that a motion put forward by Councilman Cedillo had passed the Budget and Finance committee. In the interest of time, he concluded that the Accounting Department had been working diligently as the budget throughout the City remains in flux.

7. ACTION ITEMS.

7.1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for 7/23/20 - Commissioner Marez moved, Commissioner DiCostanzo seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; Collado, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Samarjian, Yes; Thomas, Abstain; Vasquez, Yes. The motion carried.

7.2 Several Merchants represented by the letter gave presentations on their requests. The first to speak was Mr. Edward Flores of Juanita's Cafe (E-20). Mr. Flores presented the proposed security enhancements to the Commission. He stated that the Merchants feel Security is becoming overwhelmed with six (6) incidents occurring in the last few weeks. He called for the Department to be proactive on security. The Merchants recommended that the General Manager reestablish a substation for Security on Olvera Street. Further, they requested that the General Manager reach out to LAPD and request that officers assigned to the Bridge Shelter be stationed at this Olvera Street office and increase

foot patrols. Mr. Flores concluded by sharing that the Merchants would like to see Wi-Fi along the street and access to an announcement system and cameras. Next, Ms. Valerie Hanley of Casa California (W-10) spoke on the Merchants fencing requests. The Merchants prepared three (3) quotes for non-permanent chain link fencing. The pricing presented was for six (6) months with the intention of reviewing the effectiveness at four (4) months. Ms. Hanley stated that the proposed fencing would enclose the entire Kiosko area from the Pico House to Chiguacle and from the Plaza Firehouse to the Biscailuz Building. The fencing would also close from the Italian Hall to Cielito Lindo. The Merchants proposed placing temporary picnic tables in the Kiosko area as when more businesses open the restaurant on Olvera Street will lose outdoor dining space. She stated that the fencing would help give visitors a level of safety as a family-oriented space. She stated that temperature checks could be conducted in the future. The Merchants requested one (1) extra security guard be hired with guards stationed at each entrance. Ms. Hanley said that the Park is open to the public and that no one would be turned away if they were wearing a mask and following safety protocols. She then addressed concerns that the fencing will lead the Park to appear closed. She stated that banners would be placed showing that Olvera Street is open. Additionally, banners and large images would be placed on the exterior of the proposed fencing. She acknowledged concerns that access would be cut off to Union Station, but said that access would still be available. Ms. Hanley shared that when the Bridge Housing agreement was put in place, LAPD said they would remove any unhoused people on Olvera Street. Ms. Hanley stated that Olvera Street has been enclosed by fencing in the past for special events. She stated that from her discussions with several law enforcement officers they felt the fencing would act as a deterrent to crime. She concluded that, while the Commission had received four (4) letters in opposition to this plan, her proposal was supported by eighty percent (80%) of merchants. Next, Mr. Greg Berber of La Luz Del Dia (W-1) presented on the Merchant Letter request for changes to Rental Rates and the Concession Agreements. Mr. Berber began by sharing that the Merchants signed their current agreement in June of 2011. He stated that base rent would be fair market value and that this would automatically be adjusted proportionately by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Mr. Berber said that this agreement assumed that business would be in full operation. He stated that revenue has hit rock bottom with leases becoming unsustainable and the limitations of minimal hours of operation. Mr. Berber stated that the City needs to be open to assisting the Merchants during these unprecedented periods. The Merchants requested a rent structure based on a percentage of gross sales. They called for a lease amendment allowing for this. Mr. Berber concluded that both the Merchants and the Department have incentive to do well in this scenario. They requested that the Department report back in sixty (60) days with clarification on presenting this to the City Council. Finally, Ms. Vivien Bonzo of La Golondrina (W-17) presented to the Commission. Ms. Bonzo began by reiterating that the Merchants have tried for four (4) months to get traction and solutions from the Commission. She said that when asked about a rent hardship policy Commission Louie said he could not put one in place. She continued that the General Manager is waiting for direction and that the Commission has failed to provide any. She suggested that the Commission should clarify what their roles are. She hoped that the Commission would establish an Ad Hoc Committee including stakeholders, Merchants, Museums, and Staff to assess the situation and implement solutions. She stated that Merchants are interested in knowing what they could borrow from the City (i.e. a PA system and seating). In conclusion, she hoped that the Merchants would receive a place on the Agenda moving forward like the Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Chavez summarized the presentations and the Department's research on the proposals in the Merchant letter. He began by saying that the City, County, and State have suffered losses since the March 19th, 2020 Executive Order. This closed all nonessential businesses. These restrictions were lifted on May 4th, 2020 when an Executive Order allowed businesses to reopen under certain protocols. At that time, the Department assisted Merchants with these protocols by holding virtual and in-person public meetings. The Department conducted research on several venues including retail, outdoor event spaces, and major tourist destinations. He stated that fencing may block construction plans from Metro but presented three (3) options including fencing the entire Park, fencing the entrances to Olvera Street,

or adding no additional fencing. He then shared with the Commissioners the letters that were received in opposition to the Merchant Letter proposals. He stated that the Commission could make any proposal they liked regarding modifications to the Concession Agreements, but that these would all be subject to approval by the City Council. Mr. Chavez stated that in his opinion the motion put forward by Councilman Cedillo would likely pass requiring no rent from Merchants from July through December of 2020. He reiterated the options the Commission had for instructing the Department on their next steps.

Commissioner **Thomas** left the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Commissioner Louie asked if the Department had a preferred fencing option and Mr. Chavez stated that it was up to the Commission's recommendation. Commissioner Collado inquired if the Fire Department had been consulted on any of the proposed fencing plans. Mr. Chavez stated that he did not foresee any issues as LAFD requirements are based on attendance. He stated that the Department's order of hand sanitizing stations had been delayed. When asked, Mr. Chavez stated that the venues of similar size to El Pueblo researched likely had similar issues, but those were not reported. Commissioner DiCostanzo thanked both the Department and the Merchants for the effort put into their reports. He suggested the Department research the Global Biorisk Advisory Council Star Accreditation. He stated that the fencing does not lend itself to the historic nature of the Monument and Park, but called for security enhancements and clarity that the Park is open. Commissioner DiCostanzo suggested a "beer garden" style dining area in the North Plaza. Commissioner Vasquez said that this was a time to be creative, pivoting to find a new audience or encourage visitation. Mr. Chavez agreed that there must be creativity, but reminded the Commission that the City is only in Phase 2 and Phase 4 is where gathering is allowed. Commissioner Samarjian emphasized that none of these decisions need last forever. She encouraged trying new measures and inquired about quantifying the results. Ms. Hanley spoke and understood the Commission's concerns. She stated that there is a marketing plan and stated that these measures are an attempt to draw the eye of passersby. Ms. Hanley stated that a limited number of Merchants are open with the rest waiting for it to be safe. The Commissioners discussed options for quantifying the success of any fencing placed. Commissioner Samarjian stated that the Commission could rely on the anecdotal data presented by Merchants at the meetings. Commissioner Marez moved to approve Option 1B, To install a fence at Cesar Chavez Avenue entry between Cielito Lindo Restaurant and the Italian Hall and at the cross entry to Olvera Street between La Luz del Dia Restaurant and the United Methodist Church, with an amendment from Commissioner Louie requesting the Department investigate enhanced security measures. Commissioner DiCostanzo seconded the motion. Commissioner Vasquez moved to adopt Option 1A: To install a fence around the entirety of El Pueblo as proposed in the letter from the Merchants dated July 3, 2020. This motion was not seconded.

Public Speakers:

1. Jim Jang, Friends of the Chinese American Museum - Mr. Jang stated he was against the fencing as presented in Option 1A. He stated that El Pueblo is a public Park and shared concerns for the health and safety of Staff, Merchants, and visitors. He shared that he observes many Downtown workers who cross through El Pueblo on the way to Union Station, he felt fencing would be an inconvenience to them. He stated that the fencing would look unwelcoming.
2. Mike Mariscal, MyRosa Enterprises, E-14 - Mr. Mariscal stated he was part of the Merchant group requesting full fencing. He continued that any picnic area should be included within the footprint of the fencing. He stated that Olvera Street could not be open without all the Merchants open for business. He stated that a decision must be made.
3. Emily Martinez, Margarita's, C-7 - Ms. Martinez stated that Olvera Street does not need fences, but instead needs more security. She stated that she was on Olvera Street while speaking and that the restaurants were full of people with visitors walking in and out freely. She stated that

visitors are not afraid, but have read on the various Olvera Street websites that they are closed. She stated that the Merchants calling for fencing have not been present on Olvera Street and that fencing would hurt business. She invited all the Commissioners to visit Olvera Street to see the activity of visitors.

4. Vivien Bonzo, La Golondrina, W-17 - Ms. Bonzo stated that there was an unquestionable increase in incidents. She stated there is more crime when unhoused individuals are present. She said the Merchants are trying to be preemptive and protect the public.
5. Edward Flores, Juanita's Cafe, E-20 - Mr. Flores stated that as of May 4th, 2020 Merchants could reopen, but said that the General Manager asked them to refrain for a period of a few weeks to organize. He stated that most Merchants requested full fencing.
6. Peter Martinez, Lozen's Trading Post, E-21 - Mr. Martinez reiterated the invitation to Commissioners to visit Olvera Street. He stated his business has done better than before COVID-19. He said, given the number of vacant shops, more Merchants are open than presented. He stated that fencing would alienate visitors and that Security was doing a good job.
7. Pablo Sanchez, Andrea's Gift Shop, C-8 - Mr. Sanchez stated that his family's shop is not open, but that this was not because of a lack of fencing. He stated that the risk of COVID-19 was simply too high. He acknowledged that there were many signatories on fencing but said without their full input the Commission could not know what their true opinions were. He reminded the Commission that not doing everything does not mean they are doing nothing.
8. Lianne Magdaleno Lee - Ms. Magdaleno Lee shared her experience with space E-5 and that she was not invited to sign any letter. She stated that she has seen how busy Olvera Street is and stated that visitors are there. She agreed that the Commission must understand what their responsibilities are.
9. Mike Mariscal, MyRosa Enterprises, E-14 - Mr. Mariscal clarified that there were seventy percent (70%) to eighty percent (80%) Merchants who had signed the petition for full fencing.
10. Gina Rodriguez, A La Mexican Imports, C-4 - Ms. Rodriguez stated that there have not been a reasonable number of shops open and that the sales for the few open are higher as they do not have any competition. She stated that the Merchants need more than to survive, that they must excel and profit.
11. Valerie Hanley, Casa California, W-10 - Ms. Hanley stated that most of the Merchants requested full fencing. She said Olvera Street needed to be a safe space, while not turning anyone away if they are following safety protocols. She stated that full fencing was a better value than limited fencing. She said it was a shame that no Commissioners seconded Commissioner Vasquez's motion in support of their requests.
12. Emily Martinez, Margarita's, C-7 - Ms. Martinez stated that a majority does not mean it is right. She stated that what should matter is what is good for the Park as a historical Monument. She reiterated her invitation to visit Olvera Street and see the situation firsthand.

Commissioner Louie closed public comment and picked up the motion on the table. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; Collado, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Samarjian, Yes; Vasquez, No. The motion carried.

The Commission moved on to hear recommendations regarding Item 3. Commissioner Louie shared that multiple letters have been sent to the City Council in support of the motions and a waiver of rent. Mr. Chavez clarified that this item was to show the Commission's support to be added to the Council file. As the motion would be before Council soon, Mr. Chavez encouraged expediency. Ms. Soriano explained that the actions taken by the Commission predate Councilman Cedillo's motion. Commissioner DiCostanzo noted that if both motions before Council were to pass there would still be a gap for the month of June. Commissioner DiCostanzo motioned to move forward with Item 3. Commissioner Samarjian seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; Collado, Yes;

DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Samarjian, Yes; Vasquez, Yes. The motion carried.

The Commission then moved to Item 4 regarding instructing the Department to report back in thirty (30) days on the impact of the changes proposed to the concession agreement. Mr. Chavez noted that the Merchants were kind enough to say sixty (60) days and requested the Commission amend this. Commissioner Louie requested a motion to reopen public comment. Collado moved to reopen public comment. Commissioner Marez seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; Collado, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Samarjian, Yes; Vasquez, Yes. The motion carried.

Public Speakers:

1. Emily Martinez, Margarita's, C-7 - Ms. Martinez said that if there was to be renegotiation of the contracts to just let it be with the group who is requesting it. She stated that nothing in her contract requires her to participate in contract renegotiation if someone else has requested it. She warned that those who wish to renegotiate may regret their decision.
2. Peter Martinez, Lozen's Trading Post, E-21 - Mr. Martinez stated that many of the Merchants who want percentage rent were on percentage rates to begin with. He stated that he was happy with his contract and asked that his be left alone.
3. Lianne Magdaleno Lee - Ms. Magdaleno Lee stated that she is in limbo with her contract and was concerned with the notion of percentage-based rent. She reminded those listening that any contract renegotiation will have to go to the Council and that their financials would be under scrutiny.
4. Edward Flores, Juanita's Cafe, E-20 - Mr. Flores stated that the percentage would only be during a recovery period. He stated that this may be in place after December and during the recovery. He also said that he was not aware of many Merchants who were on percentage-based rent in the past.
5. Valerie Hanley, Casa California, W-10 - Ms. Hanley stated that the rent changes would help the Merchants recover and slowly build incrementally until they return to 2018 and 2019 levels. She stated this would help protect Merchants from receiving the punch of going from no rent to full rent immediately.
6. Greg Berber, La Luz Del Dia, W-1 - Mr. Berber reiterated the sentiments of his fellow Merchants. He stated that January through March are usually slow on Olvera Street while Summer is very busy. He stated that with rent it would be difficult to cover employees or the cost of operations. He felt the percentage rent would assist in the recovery.
7. Mike Mariscal, MyRosa Enterprises, E-14 - Mr. Mariscal told the Commission that there will never be a point where there is one hundred percent (100%) agreement on anything. He stated that these changes would not be permanent, nor were they looking to include Merchants who did not want to participate. He stated that the Commission meetings are wasted on arguments about different groups of Merchants. He stated that the group who submitted the letter were not pretending to represent everyone, but simply to put out ideas to bring everyone back.

Commissioner **Samarjian** left the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Commissioner Louie closed public comment. He shared that while the Merchants had shared their ages, he was older than all of them. He refreshed those represent on the history of the Concession Agreement. He stated that it took four (4) years to renegotiate the last time. Commissioner Louie stated that those listening had gotten the flavor of the challenge of reaching an agreement. He said that he is aware of their concerns, but was not sure if percentage of gross sales was the best solution. Commissioner Louie gave a few suggestions of what the Commission could do without Council approval. Ms. Soriano stated that the Commission did not have the authority to approve rent forgiveness, but that it could be submitted to the Council for approval. These recommendations could

not move forward without Council approval. Commissioner Collado moved to approve the recommendation with the amended sixty (60) days. Commissioner Vasquez seconded the motion. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; Collado, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Vasquez, Yes. The motion carried.

Commissioner **Collado** left the meeting at 6:03 PM.

3. EL PUEBLO COMMISSION ELECTION. (Continued)

Commissioner Louie expressed that he would like as much participation as possible in the election and moved to delay the elections until the subsequent meeting. Commissioner Marez seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, No; Vasquez, No. The motion did not carry.

Commissioner Vasquez expressed offense at the comments made by Commissioner DiCostanzo regarding her bid for the Presidency as opposed to the Vice Presidency at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Soriano stated that the vote would be taken in chronological order of nomination.

The Commissioners vote on Commissioner Vasquez's nomination: Louie, No; Marez, No; Alarcon, Yes; DiCostanzo, No; Garcia, Yes; Vasquez, Yes. The vote was tied.

The Commissioners vote on Commissioner Louie's nomination: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, No; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, No; Vasquez, No. The vote was tied.

Ms. Soriano stated that the Commission would need to restart the nomination process or postpone until the next meeting. Commissioner Louie motioned to postpone. Commissioner Alarcon seconded. Vote: Louie, Yes; Marez, Yes; Alarcon, Yes; DiCostanzo, Yes; Garcia, Yes; Vasquez, Yes.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

9. REQUESTS AND MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Commissioner Marez requested that the General Manager, at his discretion, place the update of the Strategic Plan on the agenda before the end of the year.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Marez motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Alarcon seconded. Vote: Louie yes, Marez, Yes, Alarcon Yes, DiCostanzo, Yes, Garcia Yes, Vasquez., Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13PM.