

PDF Documents February 12 Meeting

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For Approval

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**Agenda for
February 12, 2024 via Zoom**
(Agenda item order subject to change)

1. **Opening Welcome**
2. **Approval of November Minutes:** Attached to Agenda package; Note package includes State Board of Equalization Information Sheet on property tax savings
3. **Guest Speaker:** Alex Torres, Policy Advisor, Sacramento Office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Discussing business owner/employee legal relationship, insurance (15-20 minutes);
4. **Rep reports:** State, Federal -Social Security tax, County- Assessor Property Tax, City issues
5. **Chair Reports:** Chatsworth Chamber request, CF#20-1575, Rodeo; Sherman Oaks Encino Request; Senate Bill 923; Member request, Prop 1
6. **Chamber Announcements:**
7. **Open Discussion:** If time permits,
8. **Adjournment**

Next Government Affairs Meeting
March 18, 2024



**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2024**

Present: Richard Fisk, Florine Goodman, Varant Majarian, Sharon Bronson, Elizabeth de Carteret, Scott Krassner, Vickie Bourdas Martinez, Annie Nepomuceno, Mike Stafford, Jill Kline, Jeanett Capaldi, Cindy Cleghorn, Horace Heidt, Paula Cracium, David Honda, Sherry Keowen, Vahid Khorsand, David Phelps, Diane Sydell, Dennis Zine, Lorena Bernal, Jacob Gattman, Gaby Gurrola, Kris Hough, Denise Kniter, Kenneth Miller, Diana Oganessian, Tami Stephens Natalie Vartanian

Call to Order: Richard Fisk called the meeting to order at: 12:04 p.m.

Minutes: November 20, 2022 - Richard asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Government Affairs Minutes from November 21, 2023, as there were none,

Minutes were approved by all as submitted

RICHARD FISK (GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS Chair)

Richard welcomed everyone to the first Government Affairs meeting of 2024.

The topic for today's two guest speakers is Retail Theft. Assemblywomen, Pilar Schiavo from the 40th District, had to cancel 2 hours before our meeting. Nate Haderlie from a collaborative organization, Californians Against Retail and Residential Theft (CAART.ORG).

NATE HADERLIE (CALIFORNIA AGAINST RETAIL AND RESIDENTIAL THEFT)

Nate began by saying his coalition had 225 members (UCC is one) and their focus is on small business issues/concerns, such as:

Legislative law to hold Accountable – How can we help/

California State Assembly met to introduce bills that would amend Prop 47. Hopefully, we will see these changes on the next ballot.

Our job is more to give information to the public as to what is going on and that helps to make changes with the hope of seeing these changes happen.

Questions were asked about the effect on all of us in relation to retail thefts, what have we learned and the actual task of the LAPD.

NATE HADERLIE (CALIFORNIA AGAINST RETAIL AND RESIDENTIAL THEFT)

Nate's response was that retail and residential theft does not just affect the business owners, but their employees and the customer/consumers. All crimes need to be reported so there is an accurate account of what is really happening. He also shared that CHP, along with the LAPD, has now been taxed with these types of thefts with the assignment of Retail Theft Investigations.

Nate also said another course of action is to be sure we are electing the right people when voting, not by name recognition, but by realizing who would represent the values of the community!

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

GABY GURROLA (STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER PILAR SCHIAVO)

Gaby stated that Retail Theft victims need to share the information on the actual affect this is creating for them and get that information to the Assembly by contacting their office at: Gaby.gurrola@asm.ca.gov

JACOB GATTMAN & TAMI STEPHENS (CONGRESSMAN MIKE GARCIA)

Jacob noted that the Congressman is working to help California Businesses, but also needs information/help from the Employers.

KRIS HOUGH (SENATOR SCOTT WILK)

Kris stated that they do realize the big issue retail theft is having and the Senator has voted "NO" on bills that adversely affect small business.

Kris also made mention that the California Budget being passed on January 10, 2024, comes with a big deficit.

NATALIE VARTARIAN (SUPERVISOR BARGER)

Natalie stated that the Supervisor is an advocate for small business. There is a legislative team that lobbies on behalf of small business in Los Angeles County.

KENNETH MILLER & DENISE KNITER (MAYOR KAREN BASS)

Denise is part of the Business Economic Develop team for the Mayor's office.

She reminded everyone that the Al Fresco restaurant business was passed in 2023 and is now permanent.

She also stated that 21,000 unhoused were brought inside in 2023. There were also 1048 candidates for LAPD Training, which is the largest since 2020.

Improvement to the 311 system responses for services has also been improved, she stated.

Kenneth introduced himself and said he is the West Valley Rep for the Mayor.

JILL KLINE (CD3 COUNCILMEMBER BLUMENFIELD)

Jill said that John Popoch would be bringing information and a report on Retail Theft to our next Government Affairs Meeting on February 12, 2024.

The office will be going door to door in the Businesses in our District to be sure they know the office is there to help, Jill stated.

A question was asked as to what committees the Councilmember is on, along with a question concerning graffiti which appears to be on the increase and the recent window smashing in the West Valley.

Jill stated that the Councilmember is on the Budget Committee and Homeless/Unhoused Committee. He also worked to achieve the permanence of the AI Fresco program.

As for the graffiti issues and the recent crimes, the office is currently working on these issues also, she stated.

LORENA BERNAL (CD6 COUNCILMEMBER PADILLA)

Lorena shared that as of January 12, 2024, they are back in the Valley with a Field Staff.

They are looking for help/volunteers to help with ground clean up as well as focusing on getting the unhoused indoors.

On January 23, 2024, a census of the unhoused will take place (volunteers needed).

Lorena was asked what the Councilmember's position is on the billions of dollars for mental illness that will be on the ballot. She said she will get that information,

On January 25, 2024, a Career Fair will be held at the Air Tel Plaza Hotel. For more information contact; Lorena.bernal@lacity.org

RICHARD FISK (GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CHAIR)

Richard asked the attendees about the Legislative Handouts sent with the G.A. Meeting package, as well as what other thoughts or issues we should address. If you have any ideas, please let Richard know so he can move forward with topics of importance and interest, to and for us.

MARIAN JOCZ (Executive Director)

Marian announced the D.A. Forum which will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at Shepherd Church (corner of Corbin and Rinaldi) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration is available through the flyer on the Grab and Go or on the UCC Website. You must make a prior reservation, no walk-ins. THIS EVENT IS FREE.

All candidates, including George Gascon, have been invited. To date three have confirmed.

Marian announced the Inspirational Women of the San Fernando Valley will be held on Thursday, May 09, 2024 (Venue TBD) and the nomination form is now available online. For more information contact: marian@unitedchambers.org,

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Florine Goodman, Secretary
NEXT MEETING – Monday, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Legislation – January 2024

In the State, the last day to pass bills introduced last year was January 31. February 16, is the last day for new bills to be introduced. More detailed information on all state legislation can be found on the state website: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml> Spring recess begins March 22 and reconvenes April 1.

Bills from last year that did not make it to the Governor’s desk that are now being reconsidered:

AB 1043 (Essayli) This bill, among other provisions, would **prohibit** a person from contacting, soliciting, or initiating communication with an owner to **claim the surplus funds** from a foreclosure sale of the owner’s residence before 90 days after the trustee’s deed has been required. (Assembly motion 2-6 to reconsider)

SB 400 (Wahab) This bill would clarify that this **confidentiality** does not prohibit an agency that formerly employed a **peace officer** or custodial officer from disclosing the termination for cause of that officer, as specified (Assembly 3rd reading, 2-6)

SB 263 (Dodd) An act relating to insurance. Revises and recasts, beginning January 1, 2025, provisions related to the standards and procedures for the recommendation of **annuity products**, including any recommendation to purchase, exchange, or replace an annuity. (Assembly 3rd reading, 2-6)

SB 636 (Cortese) Workers’ compensation. (Assembly inactive File, 2-6)

SB 803 (Becker) An act relating to employment. (Assembly inactive File, 2-6)

SB 683 (Glazer) An act relating to business. (Assembly inactive File, 2-6)

SB 479 (Padilla) unemployment insurance. (Assembly inactive File, 2-6)

SB 450 (Atkins) An act relating to land use. (Assembly inactive File, 2-6)

AB 628 (Wilson) Economic Development; Made in California Program. (Senate inactive File, 2-6)

AB 871 (Haney) Safety in Employment. (Senate inactive File, 2-6)

AB 518 (Wicks) Disability Compensation; Paid Family Leave. (Senate inactive File, 2-6)

AB457 (Patterson) Surplus Land Act; Exemptions; Leases (Held at desk 2-6)

SB 923 (Archuleta) A modification of Prop 47 that would revise the definition of shoplifting to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise (1-11-24 Read first time and sent to committee for assignment)

AB 1772 (Ramos, Mathis, Valencia) This bill would among other provisions, revise the definition of **shoplifting** to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise and would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses. If enacted by the legislators, would be put on the ballot for a vote. (2-5, re-referred to comm on Public Safety)

AB 1897 (Flora) This bill would require a court, whenever a defendant prevails in a civil action, to award reasonable **attorney's fees** to a prevailing defendant against the plaintiff upon a finding by the court that the plaintiff's prosecution of the action was not in good faith. (2-5; referred to Judiciary comm)

AB 1923 (Davies) This bill would establish the Green Assistance Program within the California Environmental Protection Agency to, among other things, **assist small businesses** and small nonprofit organizations in **applying for moneys** from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the Secretary for Environmental Protection to apply for and accept grants or contributions of funds from any public or private source for the program (2-5; referred to Natural Resources comm)

AB 2092 (Mathis) This bill would require the PUC to conduct a feasibility study on the impact of permitting the building of small modular **nuclear reactors** and to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2027. (Introduced Feb 5)

SCA 2 (Stern; Menjivar is one of the co-authors) This measure would reduce the minimum voting age to 17 from the current 18 (Introduced Feb 16, 2023; Senate 3rd reading 2-6-24)

City of Los Angeles Motions from the December thru February meeting agendas.

All details about these motions can be found through the Council File Management System (CFMS), <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/> and entering the file number Note the first 2 digits of the motion indicates the year it was introduced.

20-1575: Ban several types of events at Rodeos (Submitted by 12-8-2020; Written Ordinance of 12-17-2021 received on 12-5-23 and a new Ordinance was requested)

23-1247: Execute the proposed direct reuse compensation agreement with PaintCare, Inc., which has been previously approved by the BPW, to provide a **\$1.60 rebate to the BOS** for every gallon of acceptable products given away for reuse to the public for a two-year term. (Submitted by Mayor 11-3; City Council formally accepted 12-13 proposal; submitted to Public Works Committee)

21-0717-S2: COMMITTEE REPORT relative to amending the contract (extend through December 2024) with the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania to analyze the collected survey, interview, and spending data and producing a final report on the BIGLEAP (**Basic Income Guaranteed**: Los Angeles Economic Assistance Pilot) Program. (Motion submitted 10-25-23; approved by Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging and Disability Committee and approved on 11-03; City Council approved 12-08)

23-1097: COMMITTEE REPORT relative to **establishing a permanent Office of Compliance** that would proactively assist Councilmembers with identifying and avoiding potential conflicts of interest, and related matters. (Council motion to ask for report 12-8)

22-0392: REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY Establishing a Transportation Communication Network District on properties throughout the City of Los Angeles owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to permit signs with **digital displays**. (Council approved 12-15 by vote of 10-4-1; Ordinance posted and published 12-27 to take effect 2-5-2024)



INFORMATION SHEET

www.boe.ca.gov/tra

PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS: HOMEOWNERS' EXEMPTION

The State Board of Equalization Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office is committed to helping California taxpayers understand property tax laws, and be aware of exclusions and exemptions available to them.



Homeowners' Exemption

Did you know that property owners in California can receive a Homeowners' Exemption on the home they live in as their principal place of residence?

The Homeowners' Exemption, which allows a \$7,000 exemption from property taxation, is authorized by Article XIII, section 3, subdivision (k) of the California Constitution and implemented by [Revenue and Taxation Code section 218](#). The exemption reduces a dwelling's assessed value on a qualified residence.

To qualify for this exemption, the following conditions must be met:

- You must occupy the dwelling as your principal residence as of January 1 of each year to qualify for the Homeowners' Exemption for that year.
- If you purchase or build a home after January 1, and a Homeowners' Exemption was not granted to the prior owner, you can receive the exemption on the supplemental assessment if you occupy the home within 90 days.
- You must be the property owner, co-owner, or a purchaser named in a contract of sale. You can also be a person who holds shares or membership in a cooperative housing corporation, whereby the share entitles you to live in a specific home.

A *dwelling* is a building, structure, or other shelter constituting a place of abode, whether real property or personal property, and any land on which it may be situated. Eligible properties include, but are not limited to a single-family residence, multi-unit residence (such as a duplex), condominium, or unit in a cooperative housing project. Other examples of a dwelling are a houseboat, manufactured home (mobilehome), owned improvements situated on government-owned land and is a taxable possessory interest (such as a cabin situated in a national forest), and land you own in which you live in a state-licensed

trailer or manufactured home.

(Note: A state-licensed trailer or manufactured home is not subject to property taxation; rather, it pays the vehicle license fee, an in-lieu fee, to the Department of Housing and Community Development.)

Potential for Tax Savings

Property taxes are based on the assessed value of your property. The Homeowners' Exemption reduces your property taxes by deducting \$7,000 from your property's assessed value before applying the tax rate, and given the one percent statewide property tax rate, this generally equates to \$70 in property tax savings. Depending upon the amount of local voter-approved bonds in your area, if any, the overall tax rate could be higher than one percent, which would increase your tax savings. For example, if your overall tax rate is 1.17%, the tax savings would be \$82 (\$7,000 x .0117).

How to Apply for the Homeowners' Exemption

Complete form [BOE-266](#), *Claim for Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption*. Obtain the claim form from the County Assessor's office where the property is located. Submit the completed form to the same office. Once the exemption has been granted, it remains effective until a change in eligibility occurs, such as selling or moving out of the home. Annual filing is not required.

When to File Your Claim

The claim may be filed any time after you become eligible, but no later than February 15, to receive the full \$7,000 exemption for the fiscal year, which begins July 1. A claim that is filed after February 15, but on or before December 10 of the same year, will be allowed 80 percent of the exemption (\$5,600). No exemption for the current year can be allowed if filed after December 10.



If you purchase a home or complete its construction after the January 1 lien date and you occupy the home within 90 days, you can file for the exemption on the supplemental assessment if the prior owner did not have the exemption. To receive 100 percent exemption on the supplemental assessment, you must file within 30 days of the date on the Assessor's Notice of Supplemental Assessment. If you miss the 30-day deadline, 80 percent of the exemption will be allowed if a claim is filed on or before the date the first installment of taxes on the supplemental tax bill becomes delinquent (this date is printed on the tax bill). Thereafter, no exemption is available on the supplemental assessment.



Helpful Hints

- If you are claiming the intergenerational transfer exclusion for transfers of a primary residence between parents and children or grandparents and grandchildren, you must file for the Homeowners' Exemption **within one year** of acquiring the property to qualify for the exclusion as of the date of transfer. (Note: In the case of inheritance, the date of death is considered the date of transfer for property tax purposes, even if the property was held in a trust and remains in the trust after the death. For further information on the intergenerational transfer exclusion, see Publication 800-1, Information Sheet, *Transfers Between Parents and Children*, and Publication 800-2, Information Sheet, *Transfers Between Grandparents and Grandchildren*, which can be accessed at www.boe.ca.gov/tra/infosheets.htm.)
- The exemption does not apply to property that is rented, vacant, or under construction on the lien date, nor does the exemption apply to a vacation or secondary home of the owner.
- The Homeowners' Exemption or the Disabled Veterans' Exemption is available on a principal residence. If you qualify for the Disabled Veterans' Exemption, it is better to receive the Disabled Veterans' Exemption since the amount is higher. For additional information on the Disabled Veterans' Exemption, see Publication 800-7, Information Sheet, *Disabled Veterans' Exemption*.
- The exemption cannot be granted to a corporation or other legal entity, such as a Limited Liability Company, that holds title to the property, even though the person holds 100 percent interest in the corporation or legal entity. In some cases, a partnership that owns a

home can qualify for the Homeowners' Exemption where one of the partners lives in the property as their principal place of residence if no rent is paid to the other partner and the occupant pays all expenses of maintaining the residence.

- You must provide your social security number and, if applicable, your spouse's or domestic partner's social security number on the claim form. If you do not have a social security number, a Medicare or Medi-Cal number can be provided. If this information is not provided, it may result in a delay in processing the claim or disallowance of the exemption.
- A married couple or registered domestic partners who have more than one residence may only claim one Homeowners' Exemption unless each have established their own separate principal places of residence and provided the County Assessor with documentation of separate residences.
- You must notify the County Assessor in writing if you are no longer eligible for the Homeowners' Exemption on a property, such as when you sell the property, no longer live in the property as your primary residence, rent out the property, or occupy it as a vacation rental or secondary home. You must notify the County Assessor's office by December 10 of the fiscal year for which the exemption is to be terminated. However, if the County Assessor receives information such as a new deed recording on the property from the recorder's office or change in ownership statement from a new owner, that will satisfy notification, and the exemption will be removed.

Where to Find Additional Information



Visit the State Board of Equalization's (BOE) website at www.boe.ca.gov for additional property tax information.

For information on the Homeowner's Exemption, visit www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/homeowners_exemption.htm.

Refer to www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/prop-tax-rules.htm for information on:

- Property Tax Rule 135, *Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption*, and
- Rule 135.5, *Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption-Supplemental Assessments*.

Visit the County Assessor's website where the property is located. The BOE's website has contact information for each County Assessor in California and is available at www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/countycontacts.htm.

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has a history of acting in the best interest of animal welfare. The City took a leadership role in banning the use of bull hooks in the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions, and the sale of fur products. Action to address inhumane treatment of animals at rodeos and rodeo-like events is long overdue. Numerous American cities have rodeo prohibitions or restrictions in place, including Pasadena, Irvine, and Napa County in California; Fort Wayne, Indiana; St. Petersburg, Florida; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Southampton, New York; and others. In 1992, Pittsburgh passed an ordinance that prohibited any rodeo or rodeo related event in which animals are induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique, or any mechanical, electrical, or manual device that will cause, or is likely to cause physical injury, torment or suffering.

Rodeos often use a number of inhumane implements, including electric prods, flank straps, and spurs to encourage aggressive behavior in animals to produce an entertainment product. Animals suffer significant injuries during common rodeo events such as bull and bronco riding, steer wrestling, and calf roping. Many animals are put down as a result of injuries sustained during these events. There are a number of rodeo events in the County and City of Los Angeles that utilize inhumane methods or instruments during their events. It is time for our City to act in the interest of animal welfare on this issue as it has in the past for other issues.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance that would prohibit electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tiedowns, and sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels at all rodeo or rodeo related events in the City of Los Angeles, modeled after the City of Pittsburgh's 1992 ordinance banning the aforementioned implements.

PRESENTED BY:



BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

MITCH O'FARRELL (verbal)
Councilmember, 13th District

DEC 08 2020

SENATE BILL

NO. 923

Introduced by Senator Archuleta

January 11, 2024

An act to amend Sections 459.5 and 490.2 of, and to add Section 666.1 to, the Penal Code, relating to theft.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 923, as introduced, Archuleta. Theft.

Existing law, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, enacted by Proposition 47, as approved by the voters at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election, defines and prohibits an act of shoplifting and prohibits prosecution for an act of shoplifting under any other law. Existing law defines shoplifting as entering a commercial establishment with intent to commit larceny while the establishment is open during regular business hours.

This bill would revise the definition of shoplifting to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise.

Existing law provides that a person with a prior conviction for specified sex offenses may be charged with a felony for shoplifting or for theft of property not exceeding \$950 in value.

This bill would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses, to be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years, and would make conforming changes.

This bill would provide that its provisions would become effective only upon approval of the voters, and would provide for the submission of its provisions to the voters for approval at the next statewide general election.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no
