



EMPIRE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 1841

Empire, CA 95319

TheEmpireMAC@gmail.com

Members:

Christopher Nunes, Chair
Dorothy Roberts, Secretary
Fabian Tamayo, Vice-Chair
Cheyenne Sanders, Member

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 @ 6 PM

Empire Community Library, 98 I street, Empire, CA 95319 - Community Room

Present (identified by a checked box):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Nunes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fabian Tamayo |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dorothy Roberts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheyenne Sanders |

1. Call Meeting to Order – Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Vice-Chair Tamayo.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance. Community manager Erica Inacio offered translation for non-English speakers.
3. Introduction and Roll Call - The Vice Chair Fabian Tamayo welcomed the public and the members introduced themselves. Chair Nunes had notified the MAC of his absence.
4. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2022. – A motion was made to approve the minutes. Moved Tamayo, Seconded Roberts. Unanimously approved.
5. Public Comment*
 - Julissa Linarez with Sierra Vista introduced herself as a behavioral health outreach worker who is hoping to bring Promotoras to the Empire community. Julissa stated that they are seeing little to no Empire residents attending meetings due to transit issues and is hoping to set up a place for meetings in Empire. Claudia Camerana stated that the school would be a great place to hold these meetings. Dianne Ramirez also shared that the Empire library would be reaching out to arrange something there as well. Julissa also said she is looking to start an all-age group meeting to help receive mental health help as well as reduce the stigma around getting help with mental health.
 - Rafael Rodriguez shared that there is poor lighting and leaning light poles at Yosemite Blvd, Santa Fe Ave, and the Tuolumne areas. Erica Inacio said that she will reach out to Public Works, as it may be an MID or CalTrans issue.
6. Community Reports
 - a. Public Safety
 - i. Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office – none.
 - ii. California Highway Patrol
Officer Moore reported
 - 4 non injury accidents and 3 minor injury accidents including a vehicle vs pedestrian, vehicle vs vehicle, and a solo collision.
 - 6 hit and run accidents, 3 abandoned vehicles, 5 stolen vehicles, and recovered 3 abandoned vehicles which were all reported stolen.

- 6 traffic impediments due to the recent weather and 10 calls for reckless driving with 2 of those calls being on Northland.
- the department is going to be receiving one transfer officer.
- officers will be graduating the academy on February 24th and will have a 2-to-3-month field training period as well as a 1-year probationary period, then they will be released on their own.

Rafael Rodriguez brought to attention the graffiti on 2nd and B street stop signs and at Yosemite and B street. Vice chair Tamayo also brought up graffiti that could be concerning, and officer Moore stated that he would get in contact with the sheriff's office to document the graffiti in these areas. Erica Inacio also reminded the community to take pictures and upload to the Stan Connect app.

iii. Stanislaus Consolidated Fire – none.

b. Local Government

i. Board of Supervisors – Channce Condit

Russel Fowler, Field Representative, welcomed the newest MAC member Cheyenne Sanders and hoped everyone had a good holiday break and thanked the Promotoras for their good work

ii. Chief Executive Office

- Erica Inacio, Community Manager, shared an update on flooding and also encouraged individuals to register on StanAware to receive Emergency Alerts. She also stated that you can report potholes and other traffic hazards on the StanConnect app.
- Fentanyl in our Community Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Empire Elementary School, 5201 1st Street, Empire, CA. Spanish Translation will be available.
- Department of Transportation will be making a presentation at the March meeting on an up-and-coming ADA improvement project on State Route 132 aka Yosemite Blvd. This will include installation and upgrades to curb ramps, level pads, sidewalks and pedestrian walkways.
- Erica also informed the public that Empire Health and Wellness is filing for a new permit. Their permit was approved in October of 2019, with the stipulation they would make land improvements, which they did not, leaving their permit invalid.
- Mailing out postcards the first week of February letting the community know about the dates of all the EMAC meetings in 2023. She also said that these cards will be received at the mailing address where you receive your tax bill, meaning that some renters would not receive them. The principal of Empire Elementary then requested a digital copy of these cards to send out on the school's parent portal. Vice Chair Fabian Tamayo offered to put these cards up in local businesses as well.

c. School District

- Claudia Manzo, Principal of Empire Elementary, stated that the school is still doing the food distribution on the 1st and 3rd Fridays
- Mentioned the town hall meeting that will be held in the school cafeteria from 6-8pm on February 23rd regarding the Fentanyl epidemic.
- The school is working on Love Empire projects.

- Empire is sending the K-2nd classes go to the Empire library to pick out 4 books to take home as part of a new home library grant.
- Job fair opportunity in April and putting together a young lady conference focusing on self-empowerment, self-love, and mental health.

d. Library

- Diane Ramirez, Library Assistant, informed the public that Empire Elementary, Hughes Elementary, and Capistrano Elementary schools were part of an at home library grant that affected 700 students. Unfortunately, they were unable to extend the offer to the remaining 2 schools in the district, but they do have plans to re-apply for the grant. They will also be partnering with Empire's head start for Love Empire and are planning an international day focused on books.

7. Informational Items – None.

8. Action Items:

- a. Nominations and Appointment of Officers for 2023 - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary – this item was held until the February meeting.

9. Council Comments & Recommendations for Future Agenda Items.

- Vice Chair Tamayo thanked everyone in attendance and new member Sanders thanked the community for the warm welcome.

10. Adjournment: Next Regular Meeting – March 22, 2023, at 6:00 PM. – Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM