



MINUTES  
CITY OF NORCO  
CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE NORCO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

November 6, 2013

City Council Chambers  
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860

Kathy Azevedo, Mayor  
Berwin Hanna, Mayor Pro Tem  
Kevin Bash, Council Member  
Herb Higgins, Council Member  
Harvey C. Sullivan, Council Member

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CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Azevedo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Kathy Azevedo, **Present**  
Mayor Pro Tem Berwin Hanna, **Absent**  
Council Member Kevin Bash, **Present**  
Council Member Herb Higgins, **Present**  
Council Member Harvey C. Sullivan, **Present**

**M/S Bash/Higgins to postpone the closed session item until Mayor Pro Tem Hanna can attend. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

THE CITY COUNCIL DID NOT RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (SECTION 54954) TO CONSIDER MATTERS:

**Section 54957(b)(4) – Evaluation of Performance**

City Attorney

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (§54957.1: As the closed session was postponed to a later date, there were no reportable actions.

**M/S Higgins/Bash to add Item 2.F. to the Agenda as an urgency item as it was brought to the attention of staff subsequent to the posting and publishing of the Agenda: “Approval to Negotiate a Right of Entry Permit with the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and the State of California to Access the Norconian Hotel for the Purpose of Conducting a Visual Inspection”. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: HANNA**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Higgins

**INVOCATION:** Beacon Hill Assembly of God  
*Pastor Rene Parish*

**PRESENTATION: Pat Overstreet, representing the Norco Regional Conservancy, presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to the City to be used for a picnic shelter at the Corydon Staging Area. She further presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to the City as a contribution to support the construction of the Veterans Memorial Plaza and as birthday present to the City from the Norco Regional Conservancy.**

**CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS ON REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

**Mayor Azevedo:**

- Reported on the WRCOG meeting she attended at which time the Southern California Association of Governments (“SCAG”) boundary line changes were discussed with Norco being moved to the smallest district (District 4). Also at that meeting it was reported that there are over 56 cities and jurisdictions as part of the HERO Program. A big portion of the meeting was regarding a campaign for healthy cities. Mayor Azevedo noted that she would like a discussion at a future meeting regarding how the adults in the community can be involved with Kara Lubin’s 100 Mile Club in connection with the campaign for healthy cities discussed at the WRCOG meeting.
- Reported that she and Council Member Bash attended the Corona-Norco Unified School District Gala Event celebrating the District’s 125 year history. She further congratulated Council Member Bash for co-authoring the commemorative book.
- Congratulations were offered to Kevin Bash and Greg Newton for being elected to City Council, noting that she looks forward to working with them.

**Council Member Bash:**

**M/S Bash/Higgins to place an item on a future agenda for discussion regarding the change in the proposed Corona-Norco Unified School District Trustee Maps. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

2. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEMS:

**Council Member Bash pulled Item 2.F.**

**M/S Sullivan/Higgins to adopt the remaining items as recommended on the City Council Consent Calendar. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- A. City Council Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of October 16, 2013  
Recommended Action: **Approve the City Council Minutes** (City Clerk)
- B. Procedural Step to Approve Ordinance after Reading of Title Only.  
**Recommended Action: Approval** (City Clerk)
- C. Amendment No. 1 to the Chino Desalter Authority Operation and Maintenance Agreement. **Recommended Action: Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Chino Desalter Authority (“CDA”) Operation and Maintenance Agreement, subject to non-substantive changes, and approval by all CDA member agencies; and authorize the City Manager to execute the Amendment.** (Water & Sewer Manager)
- D. Approval of the Supplemental Agreement for the 2013-2014 Community Development Block Grant Program Year. **Recommended Action: Approve the Supplemental Agreement for the 2013-2014 Community Block Grant Program Year.** (Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director)
- E. Approval of an Agreement for the Repayment of a State Revolving Fund Loan between the City of Norco and Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority (“WRCRWA”). **Recommended Action: Approve the Agreement between WRCRWA and its Member Agencies for the repayment of a State Revolving Fund Loan.** (Water/Sewer Manager)

- F. **ADDED BY URGENCY.** Approval to Negotiate a Right of Entry Permit with the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and the State of California to Access the Norconian Hotel for the Purpose of Conducting a Visual Inspection. **Recommended Action: Approve the Draft Right of Entry Permit and grant authority to the City Manager to negotiate the terms of the agreement with the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and further grant authority to the City Manager to sign the Right of Entry Permit on behalf of the City. (City Manager) PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

3. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

**Item 2.F.** Approval to Negotiate a Right of Entry Permit with the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and the State of California to Access the Norconian Hotel for the Purpose of Conducting a Visual Inspection.

**City Manager Okoro** presented information as provided to the City Council regarding the proposed Right of Entry Permit. He noted that this was added as an urgency item with the rainy season coming and it is necessary to move forward with this agreement.

**Council Member Bash** thanked Senator Roth for his assistance on this item.

**M/S Bash/Higgins to approve the Draft Right of Entry Permit and grant authority to the City Manager to negotiate the terms of the agreement with the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and further grant authority to the City Manager to sign the Right of Entry Permit on behalf of the City. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

4. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM:

- A. Appointment to Fill One Unscheduled Vacancy on the Planning Commission. **Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the City Council make one appointment to the Planning Commission to fill the term through June 2015. (City Clerk)**

**Brandon Barnett.** Mr. Barnett introduced himself and noted his interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

The City Council voted by ballot as follows:

Council Member Bash: Ted Hoffman

Mayor Azevedo: Ted Hoffman

Council Member Higgins: James M. Wilson

Council Member Sullivan: James M. Wilson

City Clerk Jacobs reported that there was a tie vote and asked for the City Council's desire regarding how to proceed.

**M/S Bash/Higgins to continue the item until Mayor Pro Tem Hanna is in attendance. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: HANNA**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- B. Discussion Regarding the Navy Sign and Storage Units Located on the Property of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. **Recommended Action: City Council direction.** (City Council)

**City Manager Okoro** presented the item as stated in the staff report for City Council discussion. He noted that the Navy was surprised that the residents were unhappy with the sign and met with some of the residents at which time there was no resolution to the issue.

**Captain Eric Ver Hage, Commanding Officer, Norco Naval Surface Warfare Center.**

Captain Ver Hage presented a prepared statement regarding the Navy sign and is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

**Ken Farris.** Mr. Farris commented on the sign visibly located in his back yard and noted his opposition to the sign. He is asking that the Navy place the sign on the other side of the building. He noted that he has collected over 300 signatures in opposition of the sign, adding that there would be better visibility if the sign was on the other side of the building.

**Marlene Counts.** Ms. Counts commented in opposition of the Navy "billboard" and the storage sheds. She noted that the hill is a visual nightmare and that the Navy is not being a good neighbor.

**Linda Dixon.** Ms. Dixon commented in favor of the Navy sign, noting the pride it represents.

**Ed Counts.** Mr. Counts commented in opposition of the Navy sign, noting that this is not about patriotism. He further commented on its effect on property values.

**Ann Hutchison.** Ms. Hutchison commented in favor of the sign and the pride it represents.

**Amber Carrillo.** Ms. Carrillo commented on the issues with the Navy sign, noting that this should not be all about a matter of pride and patriotism.

**Council Member Higgins** stated that he does not believe it is about patriotism, noting that the fact is that this is the Navy property and they can do with it what they want to. He noted that it is important that the residents express their concerns. He added that the City Council cannot do anything about it, unless there are lights placed on the sign.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated he was not happy that this was placed on the agenda and thought it should be handled through the City Manager and staff. He noted that the Navy has been around for a long time and they are good neighbors, noting its support for the region and how they have attempted to work with the residents. He further commented on the fact that the City has no jurisdiction over the Navy.

**Council Member Bash** commented on the relationship between the City and the Navy Base and further commented on his suggestion to paint the sign on the other side of the building to bring the people together and find another way to express patriotism. He noted that the property is owned by the United States of America.

**Mayor Azevedo** commented that the Council has no jurisdiction over this, adding her support for some resolve of this issue with the residents.

**M/S Azevedo/Higgins to receive and file the report. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- C. Discussion Regarding Public Official Use of City Letterhead.  
**Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the City Council discuss this item and further recommends that an Administrative Policy be drafted addressing the use of public resources, including provisions and restrictions regarding City Council Member use of City Letterheads.** (City Manager)

**City Manager Okoro** presented the item as presented to the City Council in the staff report. He noted the article from the *Western City Magazine* sent to the City Council addressing the need for a policy regarding the use of City Letterhead, logos, etc., adding that the City currently does not have such a policy.

**Linda Dixon.** Ms. Dixon commented that she considers her vote for City Council Members a vote of confidence, noting that she trusts the Council and how they represent the people. She spoke in opposition of creating a policy.

**Jodie Webber.** Ms. Webber stated that a policy is necessary as there is a possibility of Council or staff misusing the letterhead.

**Council Member Sullivan** stated that he is surprised that the City does not have a policy in place, noting a recent letter sent out on letterhead by the Mayor during the campaign season. He noted his support for a policy.

**Council Member Higgins** commented on a discussion in 2000 regarding this issue, noting that at that time it was directed towards staff. He added that as far as Council, there are certain things that the Mayor has discretion and authority to do in regards to sending out letters on letterhead.

**Mayor Azevedo** commented on this item, noting a policy from another city and adding that she would be in complete compliance with this policy. She added that this is the way it has always been done.

**Council Member Sullivan** noted that he has a problem with the letter that was sent, noting that the Mayor has no more authority than the rest of the Council.

**M/S Higgins/ Bash to receive and file the report. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**Under Discussion:**

**Council Member Bash stated that he wants the Mayor to have this authority.**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS**

**NOES: SULLIVAN**

**ABSENT: HANNA**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**5. CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. Code Change 2013-05:** Ordinance Replacing Title 15, Chapter 15.09 (Fire Code) of the Norco Municipal Code.

*The proposed ordinance will adopt and amend the 2013 edition of the California Fire Code, which is based on the 2012 International Fire Code and replace Chapter 15.09 (Fire Code) of the Norco Municipal Code in its entirety.*

**Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 966 for first reading.**  
(Fire Chief)

**Fire Chief Pemberton** presented the public hearing item.

**Mayor Azevedo OPENED the public hearing, indicating that proper notification had been made and asked for the appearance of those wishing to speak. With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Azevedo CLOSED the public hearing.**

**M/S Bash/Higgins to adopt Ordinance No. 966 for first reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: HANNA**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- B. **General Plan Amendment 2013-01A (City of Norco):** A City-initiated proposal to update the Housing Element for the 2014-2021 Housing Cycle.

**Zone Code Amendment 2013-15 (City):** A City-initiated proposal to amend the Housing Development Overlay (HDO) Zone Density Allowances in accordance with General Plan Amendment 2013-01A (Housing Element Update).

*The Housing Element is one of the seven state-mandated General Plan elements and is subject to detailed statutory requirements regarding its content. It must be updated regularly within cycles set by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and is the only General Plan element subject to mandatory review by a state agency. The Planning Commission reviewed General Plan Amendment 2013-01A and Zone Code Amendment 2013-15 at its October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommended approval.*

**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2013-62, approving General Plan Amendment 2013-01A updating the General Plan Housing Element for the 2014-2021 housing cycle; and adopt Ordinance No. 967 for first reading approving Zone Code Amendment 2013-15 to adjust the density allowances within the Housing Development Overlay (HDO) zone in accordance with the General Plan Housing Element 2014-2021 update.** (Planning Director)

**Planning Director King** presented the public hearing item. He added that HCD has issued a pre-certification letter with some recommended changes to the update. The Planning Commission approved both recommended changes for the City Council's approval.

**Alexa Washburn, Principal Managing Associate with ESA,** was present to provide information regarding the proposed Housing Element for the 2014-2021 housing cycle.

**Mayor Azevedo OPENED the public hearing, indicating that proper notification had been made and asked for the appearance of those wishing to speak.**

**Robert Cuervo.** Mr. Cuervo commented on his concerns why this is required and if the City can say no to this.

**Mayor Azevedo CLOSED the public hearing.**

**M/S Bash/Higgins to adopt Resolution No. 2013-62. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS**  
**NOES: SULLIVAN**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**M/S Bash/Higgins to adopt Ordinance No. 967 for first reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS**  
**NOES: SULLIVAN**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

- C. **Code Change 2013-04 (S&S Venues, CA LLC):** A request to change Chapter 9.24 (Gaming) of Title 9 of the Norco Municipal Code to allow mini-satellite off-track pari-mutuel wagering for horse races as an ancillary use to an otherwise permitted full-service restaurant in accordance with the requirements of the California Horse Racing Act as regulated by the California Horse Racing Board.

*The project is a request for a Code Change to allow a mini-satellite off-track wagering facility as an ancillary facility to a restaurant that has already been approved by the Planning Commission. The Norco Municipal Code (NMC) currently does not allow wagering so the Code Amendment is needed for the restaurant project to move forward as approved.*

**Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 968 for first reading.**(Planning Director)

**Planning Director King** presented the public hearing item. He commented on two items of concern discussed by the Planning Commission regarding safety and parking issues. He added that any parking issues would be brought back to the Planning Commission for its review. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval and staff concurs with that recommendation.

**Philip Palderamos, representative of S & S Venues CA, LLC**, spoke representing the applicant noting the long history the owners have in horse ownership. He commented on the investment they will make and their commitment to the project and the community. He stated that the overall profits will be from the food and beverage portion of the project and the project will generate \$100,000 in tax revenue annually to the City, along with other charitable contributions and employment to the community.

**Mayor Azevedo OPENED the public hearing, indicating that proper notification had been made and asked for the appearance of those wishing to speak.**

**Ted Hoffman.** Mr. Hoffman commented in support of this project, noting that this will be good for Norco.

**Ann Hutchison.** Ms. Hutchinson commented in support of this project, noting that it is perfect for the City.

**Karen Hendrickson.** Ms. Hendrickson stated that she and her husband own the Cowgirl Café, located next door to the proposed project, noting the potential parking issues resulting from overflow parking onto their parking lot.

**Robert Cuervo.** Mr. Cuervo commented against this project, noting that the City does not need gambling.

**Karen Leonard.** Ms. Leonard commented in support of the project, noting that this is a win-win project.

**Mary Guccione.** Ms. Guccione commented against this project.

**Pat Overstreet.** Ms. Overstreet stated that she does not have a good feeling about this project and spoke in opposition of the project.

**Linda Dixon.** Ms. Dixon commented in support of the project, noting that she believes this project is a win-win.

**Gary Hendrickson.** Mr. Hendrickson, owner of the Cowgirl Café, stated that one of his major concerns is traffic and it should be addressed.

**Pam Smith.** Ms. Smith commented on destination Norco and that this project would help create that destination.

**Rob Koziel.** Mr. Koziel commented in opposition of the project.

**Fred Farhoomand.** Mr. Farhoomand commented in opposition of the gambling part of the project.

**Roy Hungerford.** Mr. Hungerford commented in support of the project.

**Jeff Kahan.** Mr. Kahan commented in support of the project.

**Mayor Azevedo CLOSED the public hearing.**

**Council Member Sullivan** asked if the wagering portion would be tied to the building if the restaurant goes away and also asked about the parking issues. In response, Director King stated that the wagering portion needed to be ancillary to the project and further stated that more parking stalls were provided than required, noting the circulation.

**Council Member Higgins** asked about the occupancy of the restaurant and the betting portion of the facility. In response, Director King stated that the occupancy requirement is not split and added that they are providing 60 spaces and 57 are required, noting that the Code requires 1 space per 100 square feet, which this project meets on shared parking. Council Member Higgins noted that it is a legitimate concern for the business located next door; adding that this creates a problem when there is not enough space. In response, Mr. Palderamos stated that the security they have will take measures to ensure that the customers are all directed correctly if there is a parking issue. He also stated that signage could be placed directing the customers correctly.

**Council Member Bash** commented on the site plan and restaurant, asking why the zone code was not changed first. In response, Director King noted that they already have the approval for a restaurant; it was the wagering portion that required a Code change. Council Member Bash stated that he would like the Code change discussed first in the future.

In response to Council Member Bash's concerns, Mr. Palderamos commented on the site plan and the layout of the interior, noting that typically, wagering occurs from Wednesday through Sunday. He further commented on the physical layout of the facility. He stated that wagering is staggered throughout the day, with the peak hours from early lunch to approximately 4:30 p.m. Mr. Palderamos stated that by law, if the restaurant portion of the project does not succeed, they would need to close. In response to Council Member Bash's concerns regarding overflow parking at the adjacent business and the need to receive assurance from him that the parking lot will be protected so that it will not impact their business, Mr. Palderamos stated that they want to be a positive business in Norco, noting that they want to sit down to resolve any issues regarding parking down the line.

**Mayor Azevedo** asked if a corral would take away from the parking requirements. In response, Director King noted that this would not take away from the parking. She stated that she supports the project.

**Mayor Azevedo** read a prepared statement from Mayor Pro Tem Hanna regarding his support for the project.

**M/S Higgins/Sullivan to adopt Ordinance No. 968 for first reading. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS (Moved ahead of Item 5.C. on the Agenda):

**Julie Waltz.** Ms. Waltz spoke in response to the letter received by the City from the Inland Regional Center, noting the statements made in the letter and the responsibility they have for the neighborhood.

RECESS: Mayor Azevedo recessed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.  
RECONVENE: Mayor Azevedo reconvened the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

7. CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT ITEM:

- A. Approval of a Right of Entry and License Agreement with Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to Enter Upon and Use the Property Known as APNs 119-020-015 & 022 for the Purpose of Obtaining Access and Installing Sideslopes to Facilitate and Complete Construction of the North Norco Channel, Stage 10 Project.  
**Recommended Action: Approve the Right of Entry and License Agreement.** (Executive Director)

**M/S Sullivan/Higgins to approve the Right of Entry and License Agreement. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

8. CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

**Council Member Bash** inquired about a rumor of a group home located on Valley View and asked if staff can find out if this is true.

**Council Member Higgins:**

**M/S Higgins/Bash to place an item on a future agenda to discuss changing the election cycle. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: AZEVEDO, BASH, HIGGINS, SULLIVAN**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: HANNA**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Petree** stated that the City of Norco received notification November 6, 2013 that it had received 3<sup>rd</sup>. place for the National "Justin Footing Award", presented by the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) in conjunction with the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) – for its outstanding arena footing at the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the City Council/Successor Agency, Mayor/Chairman Azevedo adjourned the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

*Exhibit "A"*

**Captain Eric Ver Hage**  
**Commanding Officer, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division**  
**Norco City Council Statement**  
**November 6, 2013**

*As prepared for delivery.*

Mayor Azevedo, Councilman Bash, Councilman Higgins, Councilman Sullivan, Mr. Okoro, fellow citizens,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the council tonight. I'm sorry Mayor Pro Tem Hanna couldn't make it but I'll look forward to talking to him when he's back.

The last time I was here was when we all honored Norco resident and Montford Point Marine Master Gunny Sergeant Robert Reid. What a great American!

Yesterday morning, I had the honor of appearing before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors where they honored the Naval Surface Warfare Center with a proclamation that recognized our important role in national defense and our critical contribution to economic stability in the region. I was honored to receive it on behalf of the 2,100 professionals at my command and greatly appreciate Riverside County's public support of the men and women of our Naval warfare center for their patriotic service to our nation.

I also had the opportunity to meet with supervisors, including Supervisor John Tavaglione, and county leaders to discuss ways we can partner together to transfer patented technology from our Naval laboratory to the commercial sector, which can deliver solutions for our warfighters while creating high-tech, high-wage jobs and economic prosperity for our region.

The county has a bold vision for technological innovation, and I can see why the state designated Riverside County as an Innovation Hub.

Yesterday was an awesome day and the potential here is great – that's why a delegation of leaders in our region are traveling at their expense to join my team and me at our sister warfare center in Crane, Indiana, to see how they're doing it. We look forward to meeting with you afterward to see how their model can bring more economic opportunity and partnerships here.

Responding to the city's request, I've been asked to represent the Navy in Norco tonight regarding our Range and Data Integration Laboratory that sits on the highest hill on our base – Hill B – the painted Navy sign on the outside of the lab and the metal containers we use up there.

As you know, President Franklin D. Roosevelt formally established the Navy here on Dec. 16, 1941, as the Corona Naval Hospital.

Today, almost 75 years later, the Navy in Norco is a science and engineering powerhouse and economic engine that employs more than 2,100 people across the nation, some 1,500 right here in Norco. Approximately 75 percent are highly educated scientists and engineers, 25 percent are veterans and our average salary is more than \$95,000.

As a warfare center, we operate under a Navy Working Capital Fund business model, which means we operate like a corporation where we charge Navy, Marine Corps and other military customers for the science and engineering services we provide.

We have to watch our financial bottom line to ensure we cover our operating expenses while keeping our labor rates competitive, which drives efficiency into our business. And we do this with the goal of ending up with no net profit or no net loss at the end of the fiscal year. That's no small feat – we do nearly \$300 million in annual funding, supporting nearly 400 different military programs.

So we are like a \$300 million company. We're one of the largest employers in Riverside County. And we're right here in Norco working on a great mission of helping keep America's Navy #1 in the world.

One of our three key mission areas is range systems engineering, where we design, engineer, build, test, calibrate, install and maintain systems on Navy and Marine Corps ranges where our pilots train.

Some of you might envision this by thinking of the movie Top Gun and how the pilots were scored on their dog fight training.

Well, the Range and Data Integration Lab on Hill B is a critical asset that allows us to support those pilots so they can train to be the best pilots in the world, and when called upon, can fight and win.

Construction on the lab building was completed in 1960, and the hill where it's located provides us a unique vantage point to optically align targets on our lake and at various points across our base to engineer and calibrate our systems before we install them – often in remote, mountainous areas. It also allows us to test communication links with other sites in the region, some 30 miles away.

In addition to the 53-year old lab building, we need additional space to store the various components, tools and supplies to execute this mission – that's why we use portable storage containers called Conex boxes. In addition to being modular and moveable, they can also be packed and shipped to remote locations where we have to install our systems.

The lab building and Conex boxes are the workshops of my engineers and technicians who are building, testing and calibrating the range instrumentation systems used by every Navy and Marine aviator. These scoring systems were designed and built here in Norco and are installed on nearly 100 training ranges across the country.

A couple decades ago, all military services adopted our warfare center system for their training ranges to provide a common, interoperable platform across all services. So in addition to the Navy and Marine Corps, we need to add the Air Force and Air National Guard to the list of customers who we support, not to mention our allied nations like Australia. In fact, we are embarking on a new, \$15 million project for another ally that will be built in that lab on the hill.

This is a great source of pride when you think about it. That's Norco-built, Navy-strong, and the system of choice all over the world.

That's a great source of pride for me personally, and my workforce of nearly 1,500 here, and I think it should be a sense of pride for Norco.

Much like the city expresses its patriotism and support for the military on 6<sup>th</sup> Street – with its red, white and blue street stripes and its service-member banners – my military team volunteered on a Saturday to express our Navy pride on the side of our lab building on Hill B – in time for the Navy's 238<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was there, along with an Army major who's stationed at our base. A young enlisted Sailor and his wife. A SeaBee Reservist who's been helping us with base improvements. Eight of us altogether – working on a Saturday to show our Navy pride and the pride we feel about our country and wearing the uniform.

Across any military installation in this country, you will see something very similar – either on a water tower, a bridge or air control tower. Historically, the Navy had a similar sign here on another hill decades ago but it no longer exists.

Like the Washington Monument in D.C., these symbols remind us of important things – our first president, our mission, our unit, who we serve, those in our home town who are serving far away. That's esprit de corps. That's what 6<sup>th</sup> Street does for you, right?

Ever since I got here, I've been working hard on base improvements, beautification, increased awareness of our important mission and our contributions to the community – all to showcase the professionalism of the Navy in Norco team. We've been here since 1941 and the community needs to know that to preserve our history and chart our future.

The Navy sign on Hill B helps me do that. It instills Navy pride in my workforce who sees it when they do their physical training on base. It reminds people that the Navy is here in Norco, we're a major employer and economic force, and it helps me recruit the next generation of scientists and engineers who will help execute our mission today and adapt to the Navy's needs of tomorrow. And it also recognizes the service of my veteran workforce who served first in uniform and now continue to serve this great nation as Navy civilians.

As the commanding officer, I'm obligated to do all these things. I have to take care of my people because my people are taking care of me, this community and the defense of this nation.

The Navy has had many discussions, and I personally met, with the residents who are leading the opposition to our sign and lab containers on Hill B. I wanted to understand their concerns and to provide background on our mission work and convey my objectives. I have also invited them and others who are interested to tour our facility here to see the great work we do.

I wish others shared the pride I have when I look up and see NAVY from the soccer fields at Norco College where my kids play frequently, but I understand others may have different tastes. I know the homes adjacent to Norco College see similar signage to mine, what have those residents said? I'm sure they knew they were buying a home next to a school. What about the residents who live across from Norco High School with its comparably sized N on the second story? What have they said?

If you look across the city, you'll see everyone has differing tastes. But we all coexist. Diversity gives us character and it gives us strength.

My team and I have worked hard to come up with a compromise solution but the two representatives who are opposed to the sign were unwilling to accept it.

We are an active, operational military installation that's been going strong here almost 75 years. As we have been doing, we will continue improving and renewing our base.

Yesterday, the two concerned residents also brought up two additional issues that I'm already started looking into – coyotes, which they say are coming from the Navy property and attacking neighbors' pets, and radio interference, which they say is coming from the Navy and causing garage doors to open. To my knowledge, we have no radio transmission that would be affecting garage door openers but I have my range systems engineers analyzing the spectrum to see what might be causing it. Nor am I aware of anything that would be causing an increase in the natural population of coyotes in our area. But I've spoken to our Navy environmental experts and they will be conducting another assessment of coyote populations on the installation. I'll pass along our findings when they're available. Maybe you can have local animal control experts look into it as well.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I thank you for the excellent partnership between the city and the Navy and the many community organizations who support us, our Navy heritage and the men and women who have served in uniform. I know you have a packed agenda, so I look forward to ongoing dialogue outside of this meeting to help resolve any concerns you might have. Thank you.