

# EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

## EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

### MINUTES

#### SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT MEETING

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

#### Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall – City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

William C. Jones, III – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Sandi Potter  
Councilmember Jan Bridges  
Councilmember Elect Greg Lyman

Councilmember Janet Abelson  
Councilmember Letitia D. Moore  
Councilmember Elect Ann Cheng

#### ROLL CALL

Councilmembers/Agency Members Abelson, Bridges, Moore (Agency Chair), Potter and Jones (Mayor) all present.

#### 7:30 p.m. CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT MEETING

Mayor Jones convened the Special City Council/Redevelopment meeting at 7:31 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Bridges.
2. **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

No reports.

3. **PRESENTATION – EL CERRITO WALL OF FAME**

Adopt a resolution recognizing the leadership, contributions and achievements of Miriam Wilkins in the area of heritage roses and inducting Miriam Wilkins into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame.

Speakers: Marion Kent, President, El Cerrito Garden Club, expressed her pleasure in honoring Miriam Wilkins on her induction into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame.

Esther Sergeant, Chair and Sponsor of Ms. Wilkin's nomination to the El Cerrito Wall of Fame, thanked the Council for their unanimous endorsement of Ms. Wilkins.

Kristina Osborn, Regional Coordinator for the Heritage Rose Group, expressed her appreciation for Ms. Wilkins and her work in establishing the Heritage Rose Group and the protection and preservation of heritage roses.

Greg Lowery, Heritage Rose Foundation, commended Ms. Wilkins for establishing the Heritage Rose Group and for her work in the protection and preservation of heritage roses and wild roses.

Tom Panas, El Cerrito Historical Society, stated that Ms. Wilkins is also appreciated for her enormous contributions to the history of El Cerrito.

Theresa Parella, El Cerrito, congratulated Ms. Wilkins on her induction into the Wall of Fame and stated that Ms. Wilkins was an excellent teacher at Fairmont School.

Councilmember Moore named other great individuals who have had roses named after them such as John F. Kennedy, Barbara Streisand, Amelia Earhart, Grace Kelly, Cary Grant, Queen Elizabeth, and William Shakespeare among others.

Councilmember Bridges stated that it is a privilege to honor Ms. Wilkins for the work she has done and noted Ms. Wilkins' heritage with El Cerrito, including her parents who were founding fathers in 1917 and her father's service as an Assistant Fire Chief and as a member of the El Cerrito Police Department.

Councilmember Abelson stated that the celebration this evening is part of the restoration of the Wall of Fame and stated that she was honored to celebrate Ms. Wilkins' contributions to the El Cerrito community and to the entire country.

Mayor Pro Tem Potter expressed her appreciation and congratulations to Ms. Wilkins and thanked Ms. Wilkins for the El Cerrito Rose Show and stated that she was grateful for and proud of Ms. Wilkins work.

Miriam Wilkins, El Cerrito Wall of Fame, thanked all those who were present, the El Cerrito Garden Club and the Heritage Rose Group. Ms. Wilkins said she was born on the 700 block of Elm Street and had watched the first Fairmont School burn down in a tremendous, unforgettable blaze when she was five years old. Ms. Wilkins said her father was one of the founding fathers who used to be commemorated on a plaque at city hall. Her father also built the City's first fire house. Her childhood and growing up were blessed by her heroic and loving mother who made sure that her two daughters received an education. Ms. Wilkins stated that roses bring her great joy even though she can no longer garden and that her roses continue to bloom whether they have much care or not.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Moore/Bridges) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2008-82 and commend Ms. Wilkins on her achievements and induction into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame.

#### 4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Speakers: Bruce Harter, Ph.d., Superintendent, West Contra Costa County Unified School District, stated that it was an honor to be present at the celebration of a former teacher, presented Councilmembers Bridges and Moore with Certificates of Recognition and thanked the Council for its support of Measure D.

Yue Xiang Wu, El Cerrito, expressed concern over a personal financial matter.

Jim Wright, El Cerrito, expressed his strong support and appreciation for the Cerrito Theater.

#### 5. RECOGNITION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS LEAVING OFFICE

Special recognition of Councilmembers Letitia Moore (2001–2008) and Jan Bridges (2004–2008).

Councilmember Bridges listed the Council's accomplishments and detailed the fulfillment of projects and goals and expressed appreciation to the Council and staff.

Councilmember Moore thanked the voters for two terms of service and their faith in her, the volunteers, the City Council who appointed her to the Planning Commission, the staff and volunteers at the Senior Center who cared for her grandmother, and the city, state and county officials for their advice and mentorship. Councilmember Moore also thanked her colleagues on the City Council and stated that she felt fortunate to work with each individually and as a Council and is pleased to call each her friend. Councilmember Moore also thanked city staff in all departments for their education and support and stated that her life has become infinitely richer for representing the City of El Cerrito. Councilmember Moore concluded by stating that ordinary people are doing extraordinary things in their personal and professional lives to improve the community that they live and work in.

Speakers: Mayor Pro Tem Potter expressed appreciation for Councilmember Moore and thanked her for her extraordinary contributions to her community and made special note of Councilmember Moore's absolute integrity, bold leadership and style. Mayor Pro Tem Potter also thanked Councilmember Bridges for her service on the Parks and Recreation Commission, undertaking the community organizing to rebuild the swimming pool and for working so hard and tirelessly on researching city issues that had faced the City Council in the past four years. Mayor Pro Tem Potter also noted Councilmember Bridges' consistent, insightful, modest and compassionate leadership and her generous consideration of others.

Councilmember Abelson expressed appreciation for Councilmembers Bridges and Moore, conveyed her good wishes and commented on the harmony and cohesiveness of the Council and stated that she has fond memories of the time spent working together.

Kathleen McKinley, El Cerrito, thanked Councilmembers Moore and Bridges for their service to the community and congratulated them on the Council's accomplishments.

Joan Carpenter, Office of Supervisor Gioia, commended Councilmember Moore for her service to West County on a regional board and expressed her personal appreciation for Councilmember Moore on behalf of herself and Supervisor Gioia and conveyed her appreciation and best wishes to Councilmember Bridges.

Phil Martein, El Cerrito, thanked the outgoing councilmembers for their dedicated service to the City, their efficiency in getting things done and their good sense in balancing fiscal responsibility with delivery of services. Dr. Martein commended Councilmembers Bridges and Moore for their

consistent leadership and thanked them for their part in making El Cerrito a better place to live, play and work.

Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, expressed his concerns regarding public comment and the financial status of the city and the costs of the Theater, New City Hall and city staff.

Glen Price, El Cerrito, thanked Councilmembers Moore and Bridges for all of their hard work and their many hours of service on the Council.

Mayor Jones expressed appreciation and gratitude for Councilmembers Moore and Bridges' service on the City Council and for their acts of courage and leadership.

**6. BRIEF RECESS**

**7. SWEARING IN AND SEATING OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Administration of the Oath of Office and Presentation of Certificates of Election:**

Bill Jones, re-elected to a city council term ending 2012.

Ann Cheng, elected to a city council term ending 2012.

Greg Lyman, elected to a city council term ending 2012.

Speakers: Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, welcomed Councilmembers Cheng and Lyman and said that he was curious about how the new council will manage the challenges before them.

Letitia Moore, El Cerrito, provided the new councilmembers with advice and reminded them that the voters have full faith in them and this is why they were elected.

**Action:** City Clerk Morse administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Bill Jones, and Councilmembers-Elect Ann Cheng and Greg Lyman and presented Certificates of Election to each.

**8. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Items 8A and 8B**

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Potter) and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar in one motion.

**A. Minutes for Approval**

Approve the November 17, 2008 City Council Meeting minutes.

**Action:** Approved minutes.

**B. Declaring and Confirming the Results of the November 4, 2008 General Election  
(To be delivered)**

Adopt a resolution declaring and confirming the results of the November 4, 2008 election.

**Action:** Adopted Resolution No. 2008-83. The results of the November 4, 2008 General Election are declared and confirmed as follows:

<b>Ann Cheng</b>	<b>6852</b>
<b>William C. Jones, III</b>	<b>6362</b>
<b>Greg Lyman</b>	<b>6115</b>
<b>David Boisvert</b>	<b>3420</b>
<b>Andrew Ting</b>	<b>3411</b>
<b>Total Ballots Cast</b>	<b>12907</b>

9. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

10. **POLICY MATTERS**

**City Council Reorganization**

Election of City Council and Redevelopment Agency Officers.

Mayor Jones thanked his family and the residents of El Cerrito for their support over the past four years and expressed his pleasure at having had the opportunity to serve as Mayor and represent the City of El Cerrito. Mayor Jones stated that it has been gratifying to go outside the city and represent El Cerrito and hear comments about the city and residents of El Cerrito.

Mayor Pro Tem Potter thanked Mayor Jones for representing the city on a regional level and noted Mayor Jones' outstanding leadership and the City's accomplishments this year including the completion of the New City Hall, significant upgrades to San Pablo Avenue, significant reductions in criminal activity, establishing an Environmental Quality Committee and Environmental Services Division, expanded recreation programs, passage of Measure A which ensures a stable revenue source for street repair and increased public information efforts. Mayor Pro Tem Potter also noted Mayor Jones attendance at several public events and ribbon cuttings such as City Hall, the Tom Bates Regional Sportsfield and JoAnns Fabrics.

Mayor Pro Tem Potter also congratulated Mayor Jones on his re-election. Mayor Pro Tem Potter congratulated Councilmember Cheng on her election and recent marriage and stated that she was looking forward to work with Councilmember Cheng, particularly her youthful enthusiasm and El Cerrito born perspective, and learning from her expertise on transportation planning and sustainable communities. Mayor Pro Tem Potter congratulated Councilmember Lyman on his election and acknowledged Councilmember Lyman's hard work in the sports association, environment and sustainable planning and stated that she looked forward to working with Councilmember Lyman.

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, declared the Offices of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore vacant.

Councilmember Abelson nominated Mayor Pro Tempore Potter to the Office of Mayor.

City Clerk Morse called for further nominations to which there were none.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The City Council voted unanimously to elect Mayor Pro Tempore Potter as Mayor.

Mayor Potter called for nominations for office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Jones nominated Councilmember Abelson for the Office of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Potter called for further nominations to which there were none.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Lyman/Cheng) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The City Council voted unanimously to select Councilmember Abelson as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Potter stated that she is really honored to serve again in her second term as Mayor and be in the New City Hall with all those who have come out to join in the Wall of Fame Celebration, send off the outgoing councilmembers and welcome the incoming councilmembers. Mayor Potter said that it has been a privilege to serve and that she hopes to continue the Council's

tradition of conducting meetings in a professional and efficient way while providing the public with an opportunity to dialog about city issues and the quality of life of residents throughout the community. Mayor Potter concluded by saying she is looking forward to balancing the 2009/2010 budget and to continuing to provide city services during uncertain times and thanked her family and friends.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson thanked the City Council for selecting her. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson expressed concerns regarding the economy and stated that she is looking forward to working on climate protection together combined with cost cutting measures and continuing to keep the city solvent.

Councilmember Lyman said he was honored and excited to serve the residents of El Cerrito, thanked the voters of El Cerrito and acknowledged the support of his parents and wife.

Councilmember Cheng thanked the residents of El Cerrito for electing her and said that it is an honor to be the first Asian American to serve on the El Cerrito Council. Councilmember Cheng stated that she grew up in El Cerrito, enjoyed reconnecting with community members through her campaign and thanked her family and friends for their support and expressed her hope to keep all interested, engaged and excited about the future of El Cerrito.

#### REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REORGANIZATION

Mayor Potter called for reorganization of the Redevelopment Agency.

City Clerk Morse declared the Office of Redevelopment Agency Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and called for nominations for the office of Chair.

Agency Member Potter nominated Agency Member Jones for the Office of Chair and City Clerk Morse called for any additional nominations.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The Agency voted unanimously in favor of selecting Redevelopment Agency Member Jones as Chair.

Agency Chair Jones called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair.

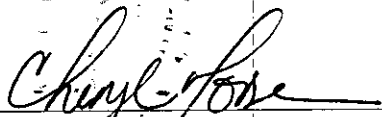
Agency Member Lyman nominated Agency Member Cheng for office of Vice-Chair.

**Action:** Moved, seconded (Potter/Abelson) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The Agency voted unanimously in favor of selecting Agency Member Cheng as Redevelopment Agency Vice-Chair.

#### 11. **ADJOURNED SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING** at 9:12 p.m.

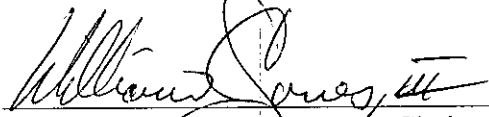
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the concurrent City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting of December 2, 2008 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Sandi Potter, Mayor



William C. Jones, III, Agency Chair