



BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: **FEBRUARY 23, 2023** ITEM: **8C(v)**

SUBJECT: **Community Affairs Committee**

DATE: **February 17, 2023**

FROM: **Director Bagneris and Chair Pham**

PRESENTATION BY: **Director Bagneris and Chair Pham**

Purpose:

This committee oversees the Board's relationship with the community.

Focus:

- *Diversity, equity and inclusion*
- *Community engagement*
- *Relationships with local, county and state officials*

Special Projects:

- *Plaza Pacifica Public Art Project Celebrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

The committee met via Zoom on 2/8/2023 to conduct a follow-up conversation regarding questions and concerns expressed by vendors and the promoter of the Original OC Swap Meet. The committee discussed the following:

- California Business and Professions Code Section 21669, subdivision 5b prohibits State or local governmental entities from operating or managing a swap meet for profit.
- Subsidizing the Original OC Swap Meet as suggested would be considered a gift of public funds.
- The former Orange County Market Place operated under a different type of agreement with the OC Fair & Event Center (OCFEC). As part of that agreement, parking fees and food & beverage sales were included in the long-term lease fees. In other words, parking fees for the public who attended the Orange County Market Place were paid for by the operator as part of the lease payments.

- OCFEC has consistently supported small businesses throughout the year. There are over 270 small businesses that participate in the annual OC Fair, and countless others that participate in year-round events held at the fairgrounds.
- David “DL” Sesena, owner of the Original OC Swap Meet, has consistently complimented the performance of OCFEC staff in hosting his events, specifically noting the assistance staff has given in helping to plan and execute his swap meet events and recommending ways to cut costs in order to lower rental fees.
- OCFEC allows the Original OC Swap Meet operator, just like other event promoters, to book events on the calendar in advance, but full payment for the estimated property rental, equipment and personnel must be made prior to the event move-in per OCFEC policy.
- OCFEC management has evaluated the Original OC Swap Meet’s request to reconsider charging parking fees to event vendors. Moving forward, parking will not be charged for vendor vehicles when the vendor’s vehicle is parked within the vendor’s booth space, when the vehicle is required to support the vendor’s operation, and when the vehicle is parked prior to the parking lot opening to the general public.

Follow-up

The next meeting of the Community Affairs Committee is TBD.