

WEST COVINA NEIGHBORS

A reference sheet on the issue of

Establishing a Local Health Department

Special City Council Meeting: February 23, 2021 4:00 PM

Special meeting called to approve withdrawing from Los Angeles County Health Officer Services and pass Urgency Ordinance.

Approximately 40 public comments were made which resulted in a lengthy discussion among councilmembers, staff, and the medical consultant.

- **Agenda Item** 1. **Consideration of Termination of Health Officer Services Provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 101375.**

Staff Report

[Attachment 1](#) - Resolution No. 2021-15

[Attachment 2](#) - Urgency Ordinance 2476

[Attachment 3](#) – Resolution No. 2

[Attachment 4](#) – Health Services Agreement

- **Motions**

Motions Passed:

1. Resolution No. 2021-15
(Resolution terminating Los Angeles County Health Officer Services.)
Vote: Yes: *Dario Castellanos, Rosario Diaz, Letty Lopez-Viado, Tony Wu*
No: *Brian Tabatabai*
2. Urgency Ordinance 2476
(Urgency ordinance terminating Los Angeles County Health Officer Services relating to orders and quarantine regulations issued under specified health and safety code and statutes. 4/5 vote required.)
Vote: Yes: *Dario Castellanos, Rosario Diaz, Letty Lopez-Viado, Tony Wu*
No: *Brian Tabatabai*

- **Meeting Video** [February 23, 2020 Special City Council Meeting](#) Entire Meeting.
Time: *Approximately 4 hours*

Specific Discussions/Segments

- Public Comments
Approximately 40 public comments were submitted: See summary below.
 - [In Person](#)
 - [Phone In](#)
 - [Email](#)

Public Comment Summary:

- A handful of residents and business owners expressed support for creating a local health department.
- The majority of comments conveyed concerns on the need, city finances and the rush process underway.
- Many individuals asked the council to conduct a needs assessment and cost/fiscal analysis before proceeding with this action.
- A number of residents commented the 4:00 PM meeting discouraged public participation for individuals who work.
- West Covina Unified School District submitted a summary outlining the services the District's student receive, expressing concern services could be impacted, and stating they opposed the action.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health submitted a letter summarizing concerns and stating they would continue services through a transition should one occur.

- [City Manager Dave Carmany](#) response to public comments

- [Councilman Tony Wu](#) directs request to City Manager to explain why meeting was held at 4:00 PM and City Attorney to explain why meeting has to be held "right now", why March 1st
 - [City Attorney response](#)
 - [City Manager response](#)
 - [Councilman Brian Tabatabai](#)

- [Dr. Vasantachart Comments](#)
- [Dr. Vasantachart Slide Presentation & Comments](#)
- [Council Questions to Dr. Vasantachart](#)
 - [Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado](#)
 - [Councilmember Brian Tabatabai](#)
 - [Mayor Pro Tem Dario Castellanos](#)
 - [Councilwoman Rosario Diaz](#)
 - [Councilman Tony Wu](#)
 - [Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado](#)

- [City Manager Dave Carmany's](#) explains process if council votes to approve Resolution and Ordinance

- [Councilman Brian Tabatabai](#) attempts to get City Manager to answer a direct question about costs, staffing, planning, etc.

- [Councilman Brian Tabatabai](#) asks City Manager about start-up costs

- [Mayor Lopez-Viado](#) asks Dr. Vasantachart about money going to L.A. County.

- [Councilman Tony Wu](#) explains why West Covina is establishing its own health department.

- [Councilman Tony Wu](#) moves the motion on the Resolution and Ordinance and City Attorney explains process, urgency ordinance 4/5th vote requirement, etc.

- [Councilwoman Rosario Diaz](#) explains her view that may take years to wean ourselves off the county but they will help us and that we need to prioritize the services, etc.
- [Mayor Lopez-Viado](#) explains consensus on quality of L.A. County Services
- [Councilmember Tony Wu](#) insists on moving his motions.
- [Councilmember Brian Tabatabai](#) reminds he has a question. He and City Manager discuss fire department's current backlog of 2,500 inspections the Fire Chief said they had. They also discussed permit fee schedule rates in terms of State Audit recommendations.
- [Councilmember Tony Wu](#) calls for the vote. Council votes 4-1 on each motion.

03/22/21 jp